

Men charged with riot after pit rally violence

- Fifty-five men, most of them striking miners, were due in court last night to face charges including riot, after Monday's mass rally in Mansfield.
- The deputies and management unions are taking soundings to try to arrange informal talks between the NUM and coal board.
- A dock strike is threatened at Scottish ports after steel workers helped unload a shipment of coal for Ravenscraig.
- Two deliveries of coal arrived at Ravenscraig despite an announcement that the peace formula had been cancelled because of "blacklegging".

From Craig Seton, Mansfield ably well", but afterwards several hundred people remained and there were serious public order problems, with a series of attacks on the police and representatives of the media.

Mend chanted at the police: "Section five, section five" - a reference to the branch of the peace order with which many miners in the present dispute have been charged.

Mr McLachlan said that that was a public order offence punishable by a fine, but what had happened on Monday "took them well beyond a

police officers immediately afterwards "and they said it was as frightening as many an incident they had been involved in".

Asked about the possibility of banning future demonstrations, he said: "I think it is something we would seriously have to consider if we had another of this type. We have got to consider precisely the form and consider the circumstances. I am against banning people who want to demonstrate and march to exercise their freedom of speech and I would not want to ban as a matter of principle unless it was absolutely necessary."

Speaking about policing policy in the general dispute, the chief constable said: "We have no axe to grind in this dispute. We are trying to steer the absolutely middle course."

"We will continue with what some people seem to see as a rather controversial tactic of stopping people getting into the country if there is a cause to think there will be a breach of the peace and we shall go on doing that."

Mr McLachlan said that striking miners had increased their use of intimidation and violence in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, where the majority of the 34,000 miners have defied repeated attempts to get them to join the strike. He spoke angrily of incidents of arson, intimidation of wives and families of working miners and attacks on homes and

Continued on back page, col 1



Chief Constable McLachlan.

simple public order offence and into a much more serious offence. I hope they realize what they are doing."

Forty police officers were injured in the violence, 17 of them requiring hospital treatment, and one has been detained. Eighty-eight people were arrested, mostly aged between 20 and 30.

Mr McLachlan said that he had spoken to some of the

Inter-union dispute

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

A dock strike at more than 30 Scottish ports is to be called from next Monday unless an inter-union dispute over coal supplies for the Ravenscraig steel plant near Motherwell is settled before then.

The decision was taken yesterday in Glasgow by 40 delegates of the Scottish Docks Trade Group after a Norwegian vessel, the Obo King, carrying coal for Ravenscraig was unloaded on the Hunterston terminal on the Clyde with help from members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

The vessel had been blocked by all unions. Twenty-five dockers from Hunterston called for an immediate strike but this action was delayed to allow talks between the Transport and General Workers' Union, the ISC, the British Steel Corporation and the Clyde Port Authority to find a compromise.

The new disagreement jeo-

which in the 1970s delayed the opening of the Hunterston ore and coal terminal for more than two years.

Mr James Gilligan, the TGWU's Scottish docks group secretary said after yesterday's meeting that the dockers would be requested to strike from Sam next Monday in support of their colleagues at Hunterston unless a solution was found.

Two rail deliveries of coal arrived at Ravenscraig yesterday although Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners, had announced that the peace formula reached last Friday over the delivery of coal to the plant had been cancelled because of "blacklegging" by ISC members.

The Scottish National Coal Board said yesterday that 1,000 Scottish miners had now asked to be considered for voluntary redundancy. They were among 1,400 who had called a special telephone number at the board's headquarters

Scottish docks strike threat

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The new disagreement jeo-

400 students barricade Poly in NF dispute

By Patricia Clough

About 400 students barricaded themselves inside a building and a photographer was beaten up as a National Front member, armed with a High Court injunction, arrived at North London Polytechnic yesterday.

Mr Patrick Harrington, aged 19, treasurer and organizer of the Front's Kensington and Chelsea branch, met Mr David Coombe, the polytechnic's assistant director, about his intention to study philosophy at the polytechnic in spite of opposition from the student union.

It was understood they discussed a proposal, already rejected by Mr Harrington, of private tuition but the meeting's outcome was not disclosed.

Meanwhile, at the polytechnic's Kentish Town building, where Mr Harrington had been expected for lectures, all classes

were cancelled in an attempt to defuse the situation.

Students barricaded the doors and held a long meeting, which ended with a decision to stage a mass picket tomorrow morning when Mr Harrington is again expected to try to go to lectures.

Mr Ian Newport, a photographer for NF News, who accompanied Mr Harrington to the polytechnic, was kicked and punched. He had his camera taken. The incident happened as a few dozen students waited at the administration block to demonstrate against Mr Harrington, who left by a back door.

Teaching staff, after strong opposition from some, obeyed a court order and examined photographs of student pickets who had previously prevented Mr Harrington entering the building. Most declared they could not identify any.

ICI chief in Moscow trade talks

By Jeremy Warner

Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, is flying to Moscow today for discussions with Soviet officials about ways of developing trade with their country.

It is the first visit to the Soviet Union for 10 years by a director of ICI, one of Britain's biggest companies.

Mr Harvey-Jones, who speaks Russian, will be meeting the prime minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, and four deputy prime ministers, including Mr Leonid Kostandov who visited ICI's plant on Teesside last October.

The discussions are expected to centre on how ICI can contribute to the Soviet agricultural production through the provision of protein technology - a way of making protein for animal feed from natural gas

The Norwegians felt they had been misled by Miss Budd and British athletics officials on the subject of her dual nationality, and have made it clear that Miss Budd would not be permitted to run in a projected 5,000 metres world record attempt at the Bislett meeting in Oslo on June 28 unless she renounced South African citizenship.

Sven-Arne Hansen, one of the Oslo organizers, who was in London for the marathon last weekend, doubted whether Miss Budd would be allowed to compete in any other European

country, since there are similar proscriptions.

An official of the British Amateur Athletic Board confirmed yesterday that the move was imminent. The formal renunciation will probably be made either today or tomorrow, in an attempt to undermine the criticism of Miss Budd and her backers expected in Thames Television's TV Eye programme, due tomorrow.

Sam Ramsamy, head of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (San-Roc), the organization which feels most strongly that Miss Budd's



First aid: An injured policeman being helped to safety by colleagues after clashes with miners.

Tass styles Shultz as 'half-wit' on Olympics

From Richard Owen Moscow

As recriminations echoed in the corridors of Western embassies here over diplomatic failure to foresee a Soviet boycott of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, Tass yesterday accused Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, of "playing the half-wit" by pretending not to understand Moscow's motives.

Tass said the State Department had obviously decided it was better to "play sumps and half-wits" than to face up to the bitter truth that the Reagan Administration had made it impossible for Soviet athletes to take part in the Games.

Mr Shultz and other officials said they could not understand what Moscow wanted, yet President Reagan himself had conceded the Soviet case by giving Senor Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), assurances that the Olympic Charter would be strictly observed.

On Monday, Mr Marat Gramov, the head of the Soviet Olympic Committee, dashed hopes of a last-minute change of mind by declaring that Moscow's decision not to attend was irrevocable.

Mr Gramov succeeded the disgraced Sergei Pavlov as head of the Soviet Sports and Olympic Committee in January last year and has skillfully guided Moscow's growing campaign against the Los Angeles Games. But he denied that Russia had planned a boycott all along, had coordinated strategy (including an alternative communist Olympiad) with its allies or intended to stay away from the 1984 games in South Korea.

Instead, Mr Gramov, who will attend an emergency IOC meeting in Lausanne on Friday, gave the impression that the decision had been in the balance until late April, when the State Department flatly rejected a joint approach over alleged American violations of the Olympic Charter from the Russians, the IOC and the Los Angeles organizers.

This was the "last straw," and had precipitated Moscow's decision, Mr Gramov said. He had earlier indicated at a press conference in April that Moscow would not decide whether to go until the end of May.

Some diplomats maintained yesterday that there had still been time to persuade the Russians to attend even after their boycott announcement a week ago, which appeared to leave open a loophole and was interpreted by officials only as a "serious expression of concern."

● VALLETTA: Señor Samaranch, the IOC president, said here yesterday he still hoped to persuade Moscow to reverse its decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics (Reuters reports). Arriving for a meeting of Council of Europe sports ministers, he told reporters: "I will keep trying to the end."

● DELHI: Vice-President George Bush yesterday appealed to Moscow to reconsider its decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics.

Thorn EMI and Bae propose Britain's biggest merger

By Jonathan Clare

The biggest merger yet of two British companies is being planned by Thorn EMI, the electronics group, and British Aerospace, the former state-owned aircraft company sold to the private sector three years ago. The Government still owns 48 per cent of Bae and a statement about the proposed merger will be made in Parliament today.

The combined company would have a stock market value of about £1,600m and would be Britain's fifteenth largest publicly quoted company, employing 160,000.

The surprise news was given to Bae's shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday only a few hours after Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, told the Government and his board. The key to the proposed merger is the defence interests of the two companies with Thorn's electronics expertise complementing the aeronautical expertise of Bae.

Sir Austin said: "We would be very much equal partners in terms of what would be contributed to a new company. But it's not cut and dried - we don't know yet whether it's a good idea, a neutral idea or a bad idea."

He added that the companies expected to make a firm

decision within weeks rather than days on whether to go ahead.

Mr Peter Laister, Thorn's managing director, said that despite the Government's heavy involvement and its early

information about the proposals a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had not been ruled out.

However, he pointed out that the companies were compatible rather than competitive in their products, leaving only size as a consideration. He said: "In my view this country needs large strong companies to compete in international terms. There is, therefore, no reason why this merger should get dealt with (by the Monopolies Commission) on size or product area."

The discussions about a possible merger started last month, but both sides already agree that electronics combined with defence would build a balanced group.

Thorn has a market capitalization of more than £1,100m, twice the size of Bae at less than £500m. But Sir Austin said it was a "merger not a takeover" and that in terms of assets and sales they were about the same size.

Aircraft sales, both military and civil, account for about 60 per cent of Bae's turnover but would be less than one-third of the combined group. This would benefit both companies because Bae would gain from Thorn's consumer sales while Thorn would be helped by Bae's strong overseas sales.

Mr Laister thought it was unlikely that another suitor for Bae would appear because none of the obvious companies would receive the blessing of the Monopolies Commission. Thorn has been looking for a partnership for months but Bae was top of the list.

Mr Laister said: "There are positive reasons why this partnership should work... Thorn EMI was a merger and that confounded the critics."

The Government has already said that it intends to dispose of some of its stake in the company and the likely merger would provide an obvious opportunity. About 60 per cent of Bae's employees are also shareholders with a combined stake of 3 per cent.

Schools for blacks shut by Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

All six secondary schools in the black township of Ateridgeville, near Pretoria, were closed last night until the end of the year by the South African Department of Education and Training which is responsible for black education. Primary schools will stay open.

Announcing this in Cape Town last night, Mr Barend du Plessis, the Minister concerned, said the decision had been taken with "sincere regrets" because of "continued violence and disruption of education."

Most pupils at the six schools had been boycotting classes because of grievances which, they say, the Government has not met. They had been given until yesterday to return. Although students did turn up at one of the effected schools, the others continued to stay away.

The disturbances have continued off and on for several months, involving many clashes between rioting students and police. In one clash a young schoolgirl died after being knocked down by a police vehicle. The latest decision by the Government could spark off a new wave of violence.

Among the demands made by the students are the replacement of the prefect system with elected student representative councils; the ending of corporal punishment; and the abolition of the age-limit regulation which means that pupils over the age of 20 may be refused reentry to school.

Blacks often start school late, and many lost a year's schooling during the 1976 Soweto riots.

Reuters' market value

Reuters, the international news agency and electronic financial information group, could be valued at more than £900m (or as little as £710m) when a quarter of its shares are sold in a complex, simultaneous operation in London and New York at the beginning of June.

The prospectus, published as a separate supplement to The Times today (pages 29-30) reveals the biggest-ever bonanza for Fleet Street and for Britain's

provincial newspaper publishers, who, with their counterparts in Australia and New Zealand, own Reuters' shares.

Although Reuters is best known for its news service, it has achieved fast profit growth in recent years by providing the same money market and financial information with which its founder, Mr Paul Julius Reuter, first launched the business in 1851 Kenneth Fleet and details, page 15

My secretary didn't book me in at the Piccadilly. I'll miss her!

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Tomorrow

Chapter and verse
The Times Profile:
Kingsley Amis, novelist and poet.

BBC once
The Books page looks at the memoirs of Sir Ian Trethowan, former director-general of the BBC. James Fenton reviews the letters of Jean Rhys.

Touchdown
David Hands reports from Durban as England's rugby team begins its controversial tour of South Africa.

Keeping cool
Calmness in a sea of troubles. A Special Report on Saudi Arabia.

Baby death nursery criticized

A report of an inquiry into the death of a baby girl, left outdoors for four hours at a council nursery on a cold day in February, severely criticizes procedures at the centre and recommends a reduction in the number of places. Page 3

US couple freed

A newly-married American couple kidnapped last week by separatist Tamil guerrillas were released unharmed yesterday in the Sri Lankan town of Jaffna.

'KGB threat'

Mr Denis Skinner (above): His widow feared she would be executed by the KGB for betraying her country, a Croydon inquest heard. Page 3

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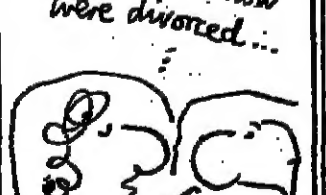
Euro hopefuls

Nearly 280 candidates will fight the Euro elections in the UK on June 14. Conservative, Labour and the Alliance are contesting all 78 seats in England, Scotland and Wales. Page 5

Sealink ruling

European Ferries and P&O have been effectively barred from bidding for Sealink British Rail's cross-Channel ferry business, because both have substantial ferry interests. Page 15

We see much more of each other now we're divorced...



Married again

Three couples found themselves "re-married" when their divorce decrees were rescinded in the family division of the High Court. Page 2

Botha denial

South Africa's Foreign Minister denied a message Mr Sam Nujoma, after reports that Pretoria had proposed a Namibian national unity government to the Swapo leader. Swapo claim, page 6

Leader page, 11

Letters: On saleroom losses, from Lord Astor of Hever; Libya, from Mr M-Y Al Magharief; food destruction, from Mr M Muggaridge. Leading articles: Diplomatic immunity; Namibia; Police and homosexuals. Features, pages 8-10

Rauf, the war criminal who cheated justice to the end; Robin Cook on Whitehall's pestilential rabbits. Spectrum: Living with Jesse Jackson. Wednesday Page: How miners' wives are coping. Obituary, page 12

Sir Geoffrey Arthur, Professor A. H. Robertson. Classified, pages 21-26. La crème de la crème, property

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Zola Budd: final move

Divorced couples 'remarried' by order

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Three couples who had obtained quick divorces found themselves "remarried" yesterday after an order by Sir John Arnold, president of the family division of the High Court.

He rescinded their divorce decrees after a discovery that the couples had been sleeping together up to the time of the court proceedings although they claimed they had been living apart.

The ruling will be seen as a warning to couples considering the "quick" do-it-yourself divorce procedure.

Sir John said that the case highlighted the need for the possible reworking of the divorce forms to remove any chance of people being misled by the questionnaires.

The cases were investigated by the Queen's Proctor, the legal watchdog on divorce, after the granting of the decrees nisi.

In each case the couples had claimed in sworn statements that they were living separate lives under the same roof, but they were still sleeping together and had deliberately misled the court.

The three cases involved couples from Worcester, Warrington and Virginia Water, Surrey, and all involved complaints about behaviour.

In the first, Mr Peter Newman, an hotelier, and his wife, Elizabeth, aged 32, of St Anne's Sports and Social Club, Virginia Water, married in March 1974, and were granted a decree in January last year.

Sir John said that the husband had petitioned, alleging unreasonable behaviour by his wife, the manageress of the hotel, but had "ruthlessly misled" the court.

He claimed that they only stayed in the same flat because they both worked there.

In the second case, Mrs Veronica McLean, aged 59, won a divorce from her husband William, aged 51, in September 1982 on the ground of his unreasonable behaviour. The couple, of Clay Lane, Burtonwood, Warrington, married in 1964.

In the third case, Mr Greenville Jones, aged 57, and his wife, Mary, aged 52, of Crickley Drive, Warrington, were divorced in 1975 and were remarried last year.

However Mr Jones said last night that he and his wife called in the Queen's Proctor themselves through their solicitor because they no longer wanted to be divorced. "I never said anything in evidence to suggest that either I or my wife had moved out of our home and I have told nothing but the truth all the way through," he said.

● New divorce laws could come into force in England and Wales earlier than expected (the Press Association reports).

The Commons standing committee considering the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill yesterday completed its sitting two weeks early enabling the Government to implement a timetable which would make the Bill law by September.

Hattersley criticizes party over unconvincing quick remedy for unemployment

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, said yesterday that it was no longer convincing for the party to assert that a massive increase in demand would be an automatic remedy for unemployment.

Labour was well aware of the constraints on inflation, he said. "There can be no dash for growth."

Mr Hattersley, who was speaking to the Ruskin Fellowship at the House of Commons, said that the next election would be fought on the rival parties' capacity to manage the economy. A party which provided an inadequate or unconvincing response to the unemployment crisis would not win.

The public doubted Labour's capacity for two reasons. One was the party's apparent inability to offer a convincing

alternative counter-inflation policy. The other was the impression it had sometimes given that full employment would be easily achieved.

After five years of recession and decline it would be much more difficult to get Britain back to work in 1988 than it would have been in 1983.

(At the general election last year Labour set itself the target in government of reducing unemployment to below a million within five years of taking office. Its manifesto said: "Economic expansion will make it possible to end the waste of mass unemployment.")

But Mr Hattersley's prescription, although offered with more caution, was the same as before. Reversing government policies was not enough, but an essential beginning was a substantial increase in demand and an exchange rate policy

which did not penalize exporters and assist importers. There must be "sensible" fiscal and monetary policy, yet to be developed, instead of the abstraction of the present medium term financial strategy.

There must be infrastructure spending on roads, railways and housing, an expansion of training, and more public funds for research and development.

The expansion of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement would have to be channelled to areas which most readily generated employment, and where unemployment was highest.

A general reflation would back positive steps to promote employment-creating projects.

Mr Hattersley placed a new emphasis on the need for a "vigorous competition policy" to improve the performance of the economy, within a framework of indicative planning.

Air power boosted in defence spending

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Air power is getting the lion's share of spending on new equipment for the armed forces this year.

The Statement on the Defence Estimates for 1984-85 shows that £3,303m, or 39 per cent, of the Ministry of Defence's spending on the development and procurement of hardware will be on air equipment. That compares with £2,222m for sea equipment and £1,705m for land equipment.

Heavy spending on air power largely reflects the continuing programme to equip the Royal Air Force with 385 Tornado aircraft.

The expense of operating highly sophisticated equipment by the RAF and Royal Navy is reflected in the cost of

maintaining their combat and general purpose forces.

The White Paper, which was published on Monday, shows that the cost of maintaining the Navy's combat forces this year is estimated at £2,495m, with £2,833m for the Army and £3,409m for the RAF. These figures relate to about 43,000 sailors, 116,000 soldiers and nearly 59,000 airmen, and spending works out around £57,000 per man for the navy and air force, and £24,000 for the army.

The differences are almost entirely explained by the more capital intensive nature of the air force's and navy's activities. Statement on the Defence Estimates, Cd 9227 vol 1 and 2. (Stationery Office, £4 and £4.50 respectively).

Action to clear court backlog

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Cuts in the backlog of cases going to the crown court for trial are expected after government proposals announced yesterday to bring in Section 48 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977.

Under the section, which lawyers, magistrates, and justices' clerks have long been pressing the Government to implement, the prosecution will be required to disclose its case to the defence before the defendant chooses between trial by jury or by magistrates.

Many defendants opt for crown court trial because they do not know the strength of the prosecution's case.

The decision, announced by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, in a parliamentary answer, comes after experiments in advance disclosure of the prosecution case in Newcastle upon Tyne and in the Metropolitan area.

Arthritis drugs ban confirmed

Two anti-arthritis drugs, Tanderil and Tandacote, are to be banned on safety grounds, after an appeal to the Medicines Commission against their ban failed.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, announced yesterday that the commission had confirmed the advice of the Committee of Safety of Medicines that they should be withdrawn.

Geigy Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer, is writing to chemists by May 18 telling them to return stocks for reimbursement by June 3. Doctors are being advised the products are no longer available.

Four contesting poetry chair

Two more candidates are seeking election as Professor of Poetry at Oxford University. They are Professor Frank Prince, aged 71, poet and retired academic from Southampton, and Mr Gavin Ewart, aged 68, poet and former advertising copywriter, who lives in London.

The favourite for the chair, contested every five years, is Mr Peter Levi. The only other candidate so far is Mr James Fenton.

Correction

The passenger ships of Bibby Line, of Liverpool, served Rangoon, not Bombay, as stated on May 1.



Lord Jermyn, aged 29, who has returned from tax exile in New York to live at his family home in Ickworth, Suffolk, with his fiancée Francesca, aged 20, yesterday.

Test-tube clinics 'need controls'

From Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Test-tube baby clinics should be open to inspection and subject to government controls similar to those imposed on abortion clinics, to protect both the patients and the medical profession, a leading consultant said yesterday.

Mr Robert Winston, who delivered the first test-tube baby quads in Britain two weeks ago, said that he felt it was "absolutely vital" that some regulation of clinics be introduced.

He feared that in vitro fertilization had become so fashionable internationally that many of the people now becoming involved in practising it did not have the necessary scientific background or training.

Mr Winston said that there was a real risk that some private clinics might be set up which were not properly qualified. There were already serious problems in the United States, where in a few cases patients were being overcharged and given second-rate treatment.

Mr Winston, who is director of the infertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, was speaking in Helsinki, where he is attending a world congress on in vitro fertilization.

"I hope that some form of surveillance of all the units doing IVF in Britain will be recommended to the Government by the Warnock committee," he said. The committee is due to report next month on the ethical, legal and social implications of in vitro fertilization treatment.

Mr Winston said that he favoured clinics being open to inspection and notifying the Department of Health of their work in the same way as abortion clinics.

Government 'acting like crooks' on GLC

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

that the Government was acting "like crooks".

Although no personal hostility was shown to Mr Jenkin, concern was voiced that the Government had "ruined its reputation" and was being undemocratic by putting in representatives from the London boroughs to run the GLC in the final year of its life, thus changing the overall political control from Labour to the Conservatives.

● A new attempt to end the worsening dispute between the Government and Liverpool City Council will be made tomorrow by Dr John Cunningham, chief opposition spokesman in Parliament on the environment.

He will put proposals at a meeting attended by Mr Jenkin and six members of the council's ruling Labour group.

● The price of coal is certain to rise if the long-awaited recommendations, published yesterday, of Government-commissioned inquiry into the payment of compensation for mining subsidence damage are implemented.

Lone Arctic walker is due home tomorrow

Arctic hero, David Hempleman-Adams, was yesterday enjoying a well-earned rest after being flown back from the magnetic North Pole.

He became the first man to reach the Pole alone on foot after 12 days walking across the frozen sea.

When Mr Hempleman-Adams, aged 27, arrived back at base camp at Resolute, northern Canada, he said: "I'm really elated - it's terrific. I just don't know what day it is."

"Right now I'm going to have

a shower and get to bed. I had to put in 15 miles walking in a day to finish it."

In his home town of Bristol, Mr Hempleman-Adams's girlfriend, Ms Claire Brooks, 22, said: "My main feeling is of relief that he is safe and it's over."

Mr Hempleman-Adams was expected to arrive in Bristol tomorrow. His spokesman there, Mr Nick Schoon, revealed that he now hopes to make another attempt at walking alone to the true North Pole. His attempt last year failed.

Fear of political blacklist unites Civil Service union

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Brighton

Civil servants will resist any government attempt to monitor or control the activities of staff who belong to organizations opposed to government policy, union leaders warned last night.

Delegates to the Civil and Public Services Association conference heard that there had been instances of union activists being questioned by department managers about their political beliefs and work, and warned that their career prospects could be harmed.

The union's concern is based on a leaked Ministry of Defence document which suggests establishing a register of civil servants' political beliefs if they are thought to oppose the Government. The union fears that the first drive would be against those MoD staff who are members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The issue provoked a rare display of unity at the Brighton conference, with the moderate CPSA leadership backing left wing delegates' calls for a campaign against a political register. Mr John Ellis, the deputy general secretary, warned: "If the Government wants to be deceitful, they are going to face one hell of an explosion in the Civil Service over political freedom."

Ms Fiona Hambridge, a delegate from the Department of Employment, said union members had been warned after writing letters to MPs complaining of government policy on the Civil Service. Union material about employment legislation had been taken down from notice boards by managers.

To use the words of one MP, we are not asking for *Carte blanche* for spies. We are asking

for what is right and proper. The Civil Service may be our employer but that is all they are, they are not the keepers of our consciences," she said.

Mr Ellis said the Government's attempts to control civil servants' political activities was based on the principle of maintaining the service's reputation for impartiality. The natural consequence of senior officials' arguments would be that trade union officials could not implement any decision of the annual conference because of their political colour.

The CPSA will now join other Civil Service unions in seeking fresh talks with the Treasury with the aim of securing a commitment not to introduce a register of civil servants holding extreme political views. They will also press for a relaxation of other political controls on government staff, and are likely to discuss the restrictions which currently restrict civil servants' ability to campaign actively in local or general elections.

The 95,000-strong Society of Civil and Public Servants had decided to step up its campaign for a pay rise of at least 7%. The union, which is Britain's second largest in the Civil Service field, has already rejected the Government's offer of up to 4%. Delegates at the society's annual conference in Blackpool yesterday supported the claim submitted by the Council of Civil Service Unions for 7% or £7 a week.

The conference carried a motion which branded the Government's attack on the rights of civil servants to independent trade union representation.

YTS loses support of union

From Our Labour Correspondent

A second large union yesterday agreed to withdraw cooperation from the Government's £1,000m Youth Training Scheme and raise the question of whether a programme for 4,000 young people in the Civil Service will ever get off the ground.

The Civil and Public Services Association's conference ignored warnings from its leadership that a block on the YTS would put at risk the jobs of 4,000 union members in the Manpower Services Commission who operate the scheme.

On Monday the Union of Communication Workers decided to withdraw cooperation from the Youth Training Scheme in the Post Office which was also expected to provide for 4,000 young people.

The Civil Service scheme has been held in danger because of the refusal of CPSA members in the Cabinet Office to allow two young people work inside 10 Downing Street under the national scheme which provides a year's on-the-job training for unemployed school leavers who are paid £25 a week.

An agreement between the Government and all Civil Service unions was reached last year on acceptance of the YTS despite the opposition of the CPSA. But the union leadership was criticized at the conference yesterday for pulling back from using a veto to block the scheme's introduction.

Yesterday's decision reflects a growing optimism among left wingers that their opposition to the scheme on the ground that it is "slave labour" is beginning to have an impact. That view, however, was criticized at the conference by Mr Dennis White, a jobsite manager as "revolutionary Utopian talk."

Mr Alan Duxbury, of the Customs and Excise department, said the union ought to be aiming to secure extra real jobs in the Civil Service and that by accepting YTS it was abdicating that responsibility. "What these young people want is real jobs and we can deliver real jobs," he said.

London warm-up for bridge olympians

Londoners had a rare opportunity to see some of Europe's finest bridge players when fully challenged Britain to a practice match at the New Acol Club over the weekend in advance of the October Olympiad at Seattle (a Bridge Correspondent writes).

Britain took a narrow lead at half time but an indifferent second half gave the Italians, headed by Benito Garozzo, often a world champion, a win by 31 imps over 112 boards.

The teams were: Italy: Benito Garozzo, Giorgio Corbelli, Roberto Cipriani, and Paolo Paoletti; Britain: John G. Henshaw, John G. Henshaw, and John G. Henshaw.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Belgium \$18, Canada \$25, France \$25, Germany \$25, Greece \$25, Hong Kong \$25, India \$25, Italy \$25, Japan \$25, Korea \$25, Malaysia \$25, Mexico \$25, New Zealand \$25, Norway \$25, Portugal \$25, Spain \$25, Sweden \$25, Switzerland \$25, Taiwan \$25, Thailand \$25, Turkey \$25, USA \$25, USSR \$25, West Germany \$25, Yugoslavia \$25, Zaire \$25.

Inventors busy for tomorrow's world

By Robin Young

The number of filed patent applications has fallen by more than a third since 1978 and, contrary to expectations, fell more last year than it did in 1982.

This does not, happily, mean that the British are any less inventive than they were, only that more applications are going to the expanding European Patent Office.

Indeed in his annual report Mr Ivor Davis, Comptroller-General of the Patent Office, remarks that the 34,691 requests for patents last year showed that inventors are still active "across many areas of technology".

The number of applications from British residents, at 19,893, was slightly down on 1982, when there were 20,530, but represented a higher proportion (57 per cent) of the total of applications received.

Analysis of the 21,080 patents published during the year suggested that medicine, automation, environmental conservation and telecommunications were areas in which inventors were particularly active.

In the pharmaceutical field interest focused particularly on novel organic compounds useful in treating thrombosis, asthma and peptic ulcers; on the

search for broad-spectrum antibiotics; in finding analogues to use against penicillin-resistant strains; and on advances in anti-tumour agents.

Interest also grew in cleaning blood, either during operations or in treatment of kidney complaints. Computer controls were increasingly used for industry to speed tool-changing and material handling, and in cars, where increased attention was also given to accommodating the disabled.

Patents, Designs and Trade Marks 1983, 101st Report of the Comptroller-General, HC 412, Stationery Office, £5.90.

Sale room £77,000 for decadent symbolist's drawing

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The most famous watercolour by Felicien Rops, the Belgian symbolist painter and exponent of decadence, sold for £77,000 at a sale of 120,000 (150,000) or £77,000 in Paris yesterday to a French private collector.

The drawing, "Pornokrates Ou La Femme au cochon", dates from 1878. It depicts a blindfold woman wearing long gloves and stockings but little else following a pig whose lead she holds as if it was that of a guide dog.

It is an exceptionally high price for a drawing and reflects Rops' *succes de scandale* at the time. The Goncourt brothers hailed him as "truly eloquent in depicting the cruel aspect of contemporary women" while Huysmans said that he had "penetrated Satanism".

The two-day auction was devoted to a collection of Rops' work formed by an ardent admirer, J. L. Burin (1878-1940), a sculptor from Nancy, which realized about £250,000.

The artist's birthplace, Namur in Belgium, has a Musée

Rops and the museum bought two distinguished pornographic drawings, "La Toilette à Cythere" at 135,000 francs (estimate 18,000-22,000) or £11,340 and "Mieux vaut de ris que de Larmes pour traire" at 10,000 francs (estimate 18,000-21,000) or £9,240.

In London, nineteenth century English drawings were in demand at Christie's where a watercolour sale, strong on the late century, totalled £254,626 with 11 per cent unsold.

The top price was £22,680 (estimate £15,000-£20,000) for Myles Birket Foster's "The Country Inn". Christie's claimed to have achieved an auction record for Burne Jones with a chalk drawing, "Chaucer in the Garden of Idleness", which sold for £13,500 (estimate £4,000-£6,000) to the Fine Art Society.

Dutch nineteenth century paintings did not prove so popular, however, and Sotheby's Mak van Wasy's auction in Amsterdam was 36 per cent unsold, though notching up a total of £480,181.

Dales line may go private

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor

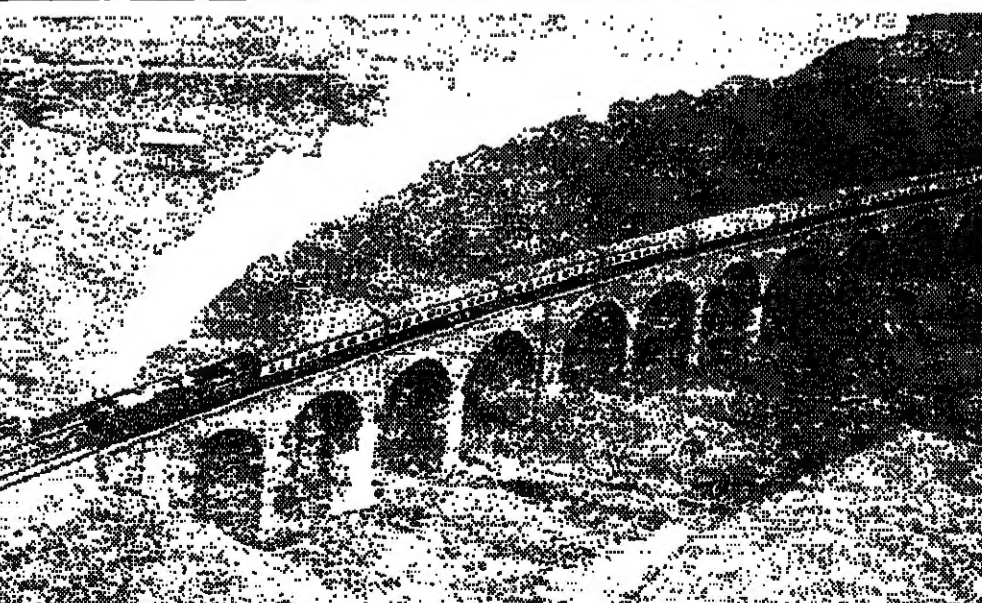
One of Britain's most controversial railways, the Settle to Carlisle line, with its famous Ribbleshead Viaduct, is likely to be privatized if British Rail is allowed to close it in the face of fierce opposition later this year.

A consortium of leisure, property, and steam railway interests is being formed to take over the 70-mile line and operate it as a year-round tourist attraction through the middle of what would become one of Europe's most impressive leisure parks.

The line runs through some of Britain's grandest scenery and the Ribbleshead Viaduct is regarded as possibly the finest achievement of Victorian railway architecture.

But British Rail wants to close it because it loses money, and is duplicated by a faster and more heavily trafficked line to the west.

Closure proposals are to be considered by public inquiries in the autumn, and are already arousing vocal and deeply felt opposition. A group of conservationists, including local authorities for



The Ribbleshead Viaduct on the Settle to Carlisle line which may be privatized

the area, have commissioned a study from Edinburgh University, designed to show that the line would be viable, if BR made the right kind of effort.

The Government is highly embarrassed by the affair since there is a clear conflict between BR's commercial remit and the powerful conservationist (and much Conservative) sentiment.

Mr David Mitchell, parliamentary under secretary for Transport, who is due to visit

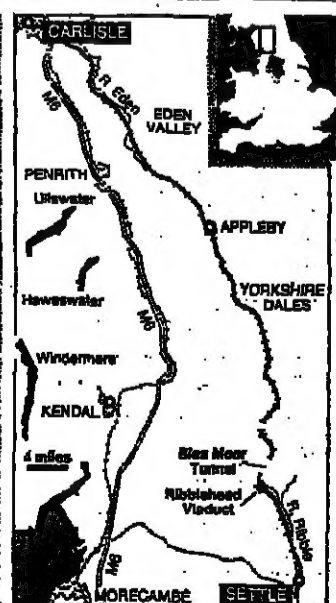
the area on a fact-finding tour tomorrow, said last week: "I want to look at the line and understand the issues involved. I will not myself be entering into a public debate on the merits of BR's proposals. That would be quite wrong, because of its ministerial role in considering the case."

Viable proposals for privatization would clearly be a way of getting the Government of the book by keeping the line open, while removing the burden

from British Rail. That is the view of the consortium, too. "The Friends of the Railway have done a magnificent job but it is a last cause," Stan Johnson Associates, planning and marketing consultants to the consortium, said this week.

The energy should be going into developing the line for the future leisure industry, rather than trying to preserve the past."

Studies by Stan Johnson suggest an initial investment of



£15m to £20m for the line, activity centres, hotels, restaurants and holiday accommodation. They predict over a million visitors a year. Up to twelve trains a day would operate up and down the line. Operation of the line would be in the hands of Steamtown Railway Museum, at Cransford, nearby. Preliminary proposals for the Settle and Carlisle Railway (Stan Johnson Associates, 25, Grove Inn Road, London WC1X 8PL, £10).

Banker's widow in fear of execution by KGB for 'betraying my country'

By John Withers

Dennis Skinner, the British banker who died in a fall last year from his flat in Moscow, was in contact with both the KGB and British intelligence, his widow told an inquest in Croydon, Surrey, yesterday.

Mrs Lyudmila Skinner, a Russian with British nationality, said that he had been in touch with British intelligence when he made visits to London. In 1976 he had suggested that she be recruited by the security services and, after she had signed the Official Secrets Act, they had given her a telephone number. Her husband, who was representative of the Midland Bank in Moscow, would ask her for the number when in London.

Mrs Skinner, aged 39, had told the coroner's officer in an interview earlier this year that she feared for her life because she had thwarted 13 or 14 years of KGB operations.

"If I have to tell you the truth I will be executed," she told Bernard Adams. "What I have done is betray my country. Here in Harrow is a woman who has threatened the KGB. Over 13 years to be branded a woman who has crossed the KGB is highly dangerous."

Mrs Skinner became alarmed in the early 1970s after she told her future husband that the KGB wanted to make contact. She had advised him to leave Russia or end contacts with her but he had just laughed.

She said the KGB had told her they wanted to talk to him and believed that because he was being so open about his affair with her he wanted to contact them. She said that when the KGB approached her "and told me romance was in the air I thought I was going to be sent to Siberia."

Mrs Skinner, who at that time worked as Mr Skinner's secretary at International Computers, had told a Russian

superior in 1970 that he said he knew how the Soviet Union could get computer parts which would normally not qualify for an export licence from the West.

He was soon having regular meetings with a KGB officer. On Monday the inquest heard that Mr Skinner had established contact with a KGB officer called "Alec" on his second tour of duty between 1978 and 1983. Just before he died on June 17 he told British diplomats that he knew of a spy in the British security forces and that "Alec" had turned against him and wanted him arrested.

Yesterday Dr Mary McHugh, the south London coroner, heard that Mr Skinner also had regular meetings at the Sovetskaya hotel in the early 1970s with a man called "Boris" who, she believed, was a KGB officer.

Mr Skinner went to Moscow in 1968 for ICL and was contacted by the KGB within two years. He returned to London in 1974 with Lyudmila



Mrs Lyudmila Skinner, who was giving evidence at yesterday's inquest.

and was made MBE in the New Year's Honours.

In 1976 he told her he was returning to Moscow and had been trained as a banker and head received "some very highly specialized training".

Even though Mrs Skinner was reluctant they went back under "very controlled conditions. I can say no more about it but I'm sure you can read more into it," she had told Mr Adams. "There are pretty obvious conclusions to be made about this second trip to Moscow but I cannot talk about this."

Mr Skinner was again approached by the KGB and set up contacts with "Alec". When his wife returned to London because of their two sons' education he would ask her for the intelligence service's number on his regular visits.

The inquest jury also heard from Dr Rufus Crompton, a pathologist, who had examined Mr Skinner's body and said that he "could not confirm or exclude injuries caused by assault".

Mr Skinner, who was aged 54, had received such severe injuries all over his body that they could not all have been caused by the impact after a fall from the eleventh floor flat.

Dr Crompton said the other injuries could have been caused by his hitting something on the way down or by two falls.

Mr Skinner's body has been discovered without shoes and with a tracksuit top over his head.

Mr Skinner's former deputy in Moscow, the Midland Bank, Nicholas Burton, said that he had found diaries which showed that Mr Skinner was very unhappy and lonely, obsessed about his health and with drinking problem. But Mr Skinner was far from suicidal. The inquest was adjourned until today.

PC jailed for punch that split man's eye

A police constable who assaulted a businessman with such "chilling and calculated force" that it left him almost totally blind was sentenced yesterday to two years in jail, six months of which was suspended.

PC Brian Renton, aged 28, who had denied causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Barry Cartell, was found guilty by an 11-1 majority verdict by the jury at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

PC Renton, a former RAF boxer, punched Mr Cartell, aged 36, so hard that his eye was ruptured, the court was told.

Mr Cartell, of Burton Street, Bloomsbury, who only had 10 per cent vision in his right eye, had to have the left eye surgically removed. He was forced to give up his garage business and now lives on £29 a week social security.

After the "ferocious" attack at Islington police station, north London, PC Renton asked his colleagues to cover up for him when he saw the blood pouring from Mr Cartell's eye socket, the court was told.

The jury heard how Mr Cartell and a group of friends were arrested and taken to the police station after an argument with PC Renton who was sitting with colleagues at another table.

Judge Mota-Singh, QC told Renton, of Parkchurch House, Grosvenor Avenue, Highbury, north London, this was a very serious assault and one might be forgiven for thinking that to some extent it was pre-planned.

"Those who abuse the trust of the community must expect to be punished appropriately," for the defence, told the court that PC Renton would be requesting solitary confinement in jail for his own protection.

On the day the trial opened, May 8, PC Renton's wife, WPC Julie Renton who is stationed at King's Cross police station received a bravery award at Bow Street police station.



Birthday balloon: Zara Phillips, daughter of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, leaving Minchinhampton nursery school, near Stroud, yesterday, after celebrating her third birthday with friends.

Nursery criticized over death of baby left outdoors

By Rupert Morris

A baby girl aged three-and-a-half months died after being left outdoors unattended for four hours at a council nursery on a cold day in February.

A report of an inquiry into her death, published yesterday, severely criticized procedures at the day nursery, in the north London borough of Camden.

Mr Alan Woods, chairman of Camden social services, described the report as "very damning" and said that he was extremely disturbed by the findings. He would suggest to the social services committee, which meets tonight, that the recommendations of the inquiry should be implemented in full and without delay.

The inquiry, chaired by Dr Robert Dinwiddie, consultant paediatrician at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, pinpointed various failings which may have contributed to Betty Surges's death at the Minster Road day nursery on February 16, and expressed particular concern that after her death was discovered, no attempt was made to revive her and it was nearly an hour later that an ambulance was called.

The inquiry found that Betty suffered a "cot death" (defined as the sudden, unaccountable death of an infant), but the fact that a three-and-a-half-month-old baby, just separated from her mother and beginning to be weaned, was left outside in a pram without being handled by an adult from 12.30 pm to 4.40 pm on a winter day when temperatures did not rise above 2.5°C (36°F) may have contributed to her death.

The report said that the baby was left outdoors for too long, in an exposed, windy, cold area; staff failed to appreciate the vulnerability of babies to cold weather and did not check on her properly, observing her only through a window.

The baby was handled by five different members of staff, who, the inquiry found, failed to take

account of her difficulty in adjusting to a new regime away from her mother. It said that when Betty was found dead, no attempt was made to resuscitate her and events after her death showed "a picture of total panic and confusion". Unqualified staff occurred, and senior officers failed to notify the emergency services until 5.30 pm. They also left a junior officer to break the news to Betty's distraught mother.

The inquiry found that general supervision of the staff was "inadequate". They appeared to arrange matters among themselves, and senior staff failed to cover for shortages.

It found that no proper records were kept of children's sleeping, feeding or behaviour patterns.

The report said that Department of Health and Social Security guidelines of a 1:5 staff ratio for two-five-year-olds and 1:3 for the under-twos were found to be barely adequate even with all staff present, and inadequate when sickness, leave or other absence was taken into account.

The inquiry panel recommended that the council should reconsider its policy of maximizing the number of day-care places available, and of admitting very young babies to day nurseries. The numbers attending Minster Road should be reduced, it said.

An inquest is to be held on Betty's death, before a jury, on June 26.

The officers involved, who had qualifications from the Nursery Nurse Examination Board, but no medical qualifications, were all interviewed by the police on the day of the incident. No charges were brought. Their names were being withheld by Camden Council yesterday because of possible disciplinary proceedings.

Drug label inquiry sought

Drugs and medicines that may harm unborn children should have clear warnings on their labels, Mr Michael Meacher, opposition spokesman for health and social security, said yesterday. Calling for an investigation

into drug labelling, he added that the only real protection was the family doctor's advice to women when drugs are prescribed. Such advice could be forgotten, or not given properly.

Men's birth control role 'forgotten'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Men need positive discrimination to encourage them to take a bigger part in contraception, a Family Planning Association report says today.

Too many family planning clinics are female territory, which embarrasses men it says. Family doctors regard prescribing sheaths as beneath their dignity, and young married men, in particular, stand condemned whatever they do.

"If they risk making a woman pregnant they are accused of irresponsibility and immoral selfishness; and if they try to obtain contraceptives they are accused of being sexual libertines trying to escape the consequences of their behaviour."

The report, published with the Birth Control Trust, says that men are the forgotten partners in contraception. Yet they need to be given equality, to share responsibility for contraception and to develop the tender, caring and "unmanly" side of their personalities, Mr Alastair Service, general secretary of the Family Planning Association, said.

There is evidence that women are increasingly dissatisfied with men as companions and confidants.

In the 1960s, the number of men divorcing wives equalled that of women divorcing husbands. Now three women divorce husbands for every man divorcing a wife.

The report says that while sheaths are the second most popular form of contraception, used by 2.8 million couples against 3.5 million on the pill, it is the only birth control for which most users have to pay.

The association is to campaign for GPs to be allowed to prescribe the sheath because it needs less medical supervision its cost is comparable to the pill.

Men, Sex and Contraception, (FPA and Birth Control Trust, 37-35 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ).

Teenage sex blamed on media

Media reinforcement of traditional ideas on sex roles may have contributed significantly to the increase in sexual activity among teenagers during the past twenty years, according to a report published yesterday by The National Council of Women of Great Britain.

"The macho 'James Bond' image of the tough but sophisticated and successful philanderer - or the aggressive 'he-man' philosophy promulgated in some of the sex and violence films etc over the last two decades - leads some teenage boys to the conclusion that in order to prove their masculinity they must either 'make it' with as many girls as possible."

The report entitled *Sex Education - Whose Responsibility?* complains that too many parents still apply a double standard of sexual behaviour. "They consider it natural (and advantageous) for their sons to be sexually experienced - but not for their daughters."

Talks today on high-rise fire hazard

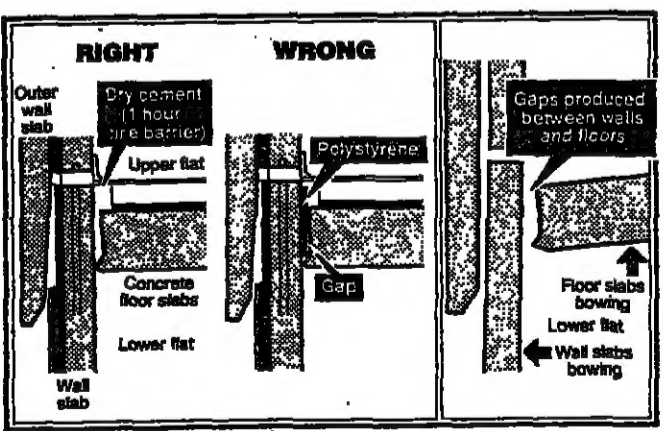
By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

Tenants' representatives from eight tower blocks built on the same lines as the ill-fated Ronan Point are meeting tonight in Newham, east London, to discuss the partial evacuation of people who might be "vulnerable" in the event of fire.

Sixteen years ago Ronan Point caused five deaths and led to the partial collapse of the 22-storey block of flats.

All 97 Ronan Point families are being evacuated, because the council's engineers have confirmed an independent architect's report, which said that gaps had emerged in the structure, causing a fire risk.

The tenants meeting with members of Newham council is the first of a series planned to keep them informed about steps



The problems of Ronan Point

the council is taking to deal with the problems which have come to light.

Mr Fred Jones, chairman of the housing committee, said yesterday that other tenants wanted to move out, but it would be impossible to evacuate all the blocks. The flats are being left empty as they become vacant.

Mr George Iley, director of engineering, said that he

Government's Fire Research Station had approved temporary measures to overcome the immediate fire risk. Gaps have appeared between wall panels.

Mr Sam Webb, the architect who drew up the report for the council, estimated yesterday that there are at least 5,000 flats in London alone built on the lines of Ronan Point which should be subject to an immediate structural survey.

Dictionary to computerize entries

By Alan Hamilton

The Oxford English Dictionary, from a, aa, aal, aan and aardvark, through 500,000 entries that terminate in zymurgy, is to be computerized.

It will take 120 keyboard operators 18 months to transcribe the 500 million characters in the 21,000 pages of the printed edition, and the most advanced computer will take 10 minutes to read it.

The store of knowledge upon which OED is based is stored in the office of Dr Robert Burchfield, its chief editor at the Oxford University Press. In 40 filing cabinets there are three million sheets of paper, many in the copperplate of its original Victorian editor, James Murray.

Decay and change of language have accelerated so much that the filing cabinet and the printing press cannot keep pace. Dr Burchfield has been

labouring for 28 years on the fourth and final supplement to the OED.

Putting the dictionary on computer (a word it first recorded in 1897) will enable OUP to publish an integrated edition, taking all the new words and usages recorded since the first supplement was published in 1933. That they hope to do in four years. But Dr Burchfield is aware that preparing additional supplements took four times as long as he expected.

Computerization will also permit constant and immediate updating of words, and usages.

Subscribers to the computer will gain access to a dictionary which will be the largest and most up-to-date in any language, or they may buy it on tape or disk.

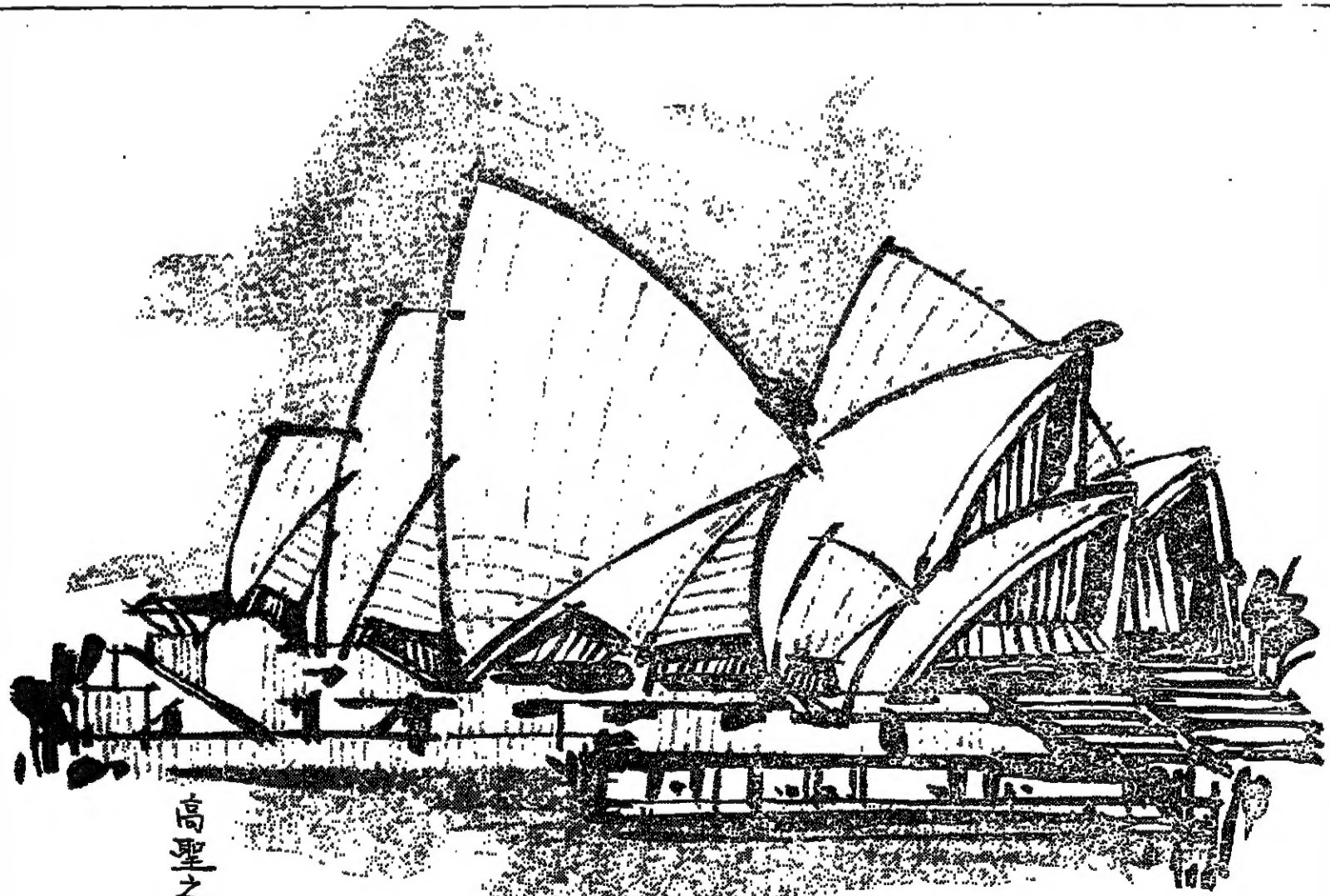
Dr Burchfield has kept abreast remarkably well with his filing cabinets; "zero option" will appear in his fourth supplement, to be published next year, "acid rain" posed no trouble; his Victorian predecessor recorded it with precisely today's meaning. Computerized such as "bit" and "megabyte" are already relatively old hat.

The new venture, the New Oxford Dictionary, will cost OUP £7m, with a further £1m investment by the British subsidiary of IBM, and a £300,000 Department of Trade and Industry grant.

Much of the research, transcription, and program writing will be conducted by the University of Waterloo in Canada and by the United States computing subsidiary of Reed International.

The OUP will 1,100 sets of the 12-volume dictionary and its supplements each year.

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PARLIAMENT May 15 1984

Why Joseph opposes arbitration for teachers

EDUCATION

Industrial action by teachers was not in their own interests and damaged and disrupted pupils' education, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during questions in the Commons.

In reply to calls for the pay dispute to go to arbitration, he said that employers had already offered the teachers as much as they could afford and the arbitrator did not have the ability to provide more money.

I very much regret (he said) the teachers' unions' rejection of the employers' offer of pay. I believe that that offer to be a fair one. It strains to the limit the employers' ability to pay and it is for that reason that they have rightly refused arbitration.

I regret even more the damage and disruption to pupils' education now being caused by the teachers' industrial action. I cannot believe that the teachers' unions are in any way interested in the education of their pupils. I hope that they will come to recognize the 4½ per cent pay offer as reasonable and acceptable.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab): Will Sir Keith Joseph not agree that he was concerned about standards in schools. One of the key elements for these is having high morale among teachers, pupils and parents. His handling of this dispute has done irreparable damage to morale in schools.

Will he agree to send the whole issue to arbitration and ensure something is done to restore morale to teachers, pupils and parents?

Sir Keith Joseph: Arbitration will not solve this problem because employers have offered as much as possible - in many cases more than they can afford. The arbitrator cannot provide more money.

Mr Kevin Burton (Rother Valley, Lab) asked Sir Keith why he did not fight against the cuts in local authority spending.

Sir Keith Joseph: Because the Government of which I am a member fought and on two occasions in 1979 and 1983 when the central plank in its platform was to bring public spending under control and to bring down inflation. We have done that in the interests of every person in this country.

We cannot imperil this success by increasing public spending in order to give pay awards. That route would lead us right back to the inflation of the 1970s.

Mr James Callaghan (Heywood and Middleton, Lab) said 60 per cent of teachers earned less than £10,000 a year. It took scale one and scale two teachers 14 years to reach the maximum of £8,000 to £9,000.

He asked for the issue to go to arbitration as these figures compared unfavourably with other professions, such as the police.

Sir Keith Joseph repeated that this would be no solution.

Mr George Walden (Buckingham, Con): Teaching is a profession and the three main characteristics are maintaining high standards, adequate rewards, and no going on strike.

Will Sir Keith therefore continue in his efforts to put together a package that will emphasize the raising of standards and the restructuring of teachers' salaries?

Sir Keith Joseph: Some such possibility is under discussion within the Burnham framework and I hope it will succeed in hammering out a rigorous system of teachers' assessment.

Teachers have and do benefit from a greater degree of job security than other groups.

Mrs Angela Rumbold (Mitcham and Morden, C): Sought reassurance for parents and young people who were anxious about the effects of the dispute on examinations.

Sir Keith Joseph: The evidence so far is that the children who have been taking examinations have not had their work disrupted and I hope, whatever happens in the future, this will continue.

Sir Keith Joseph: Present pay, let alone the increase were the offer to be accepted, is at a level, I am told, which is attracting candidates for teacher training of the desired quality.

Mr Mark Fisher (Stoke-on-Trent Central, Lab): Teachers' pay has fallen 31 per cent below the level set by the Houghton Committee. The only fair and just thing for the Government to do is to have a phased return to decent levels - or is he not interested in rewarding the work of teachers, which he concedes is valuable and important to the country?

Sir Keith Joseph: A government cannot conduct its economic affairs to the benefit of all the people in this country if past restraints are sought to be frozen.

Sir Peter Emery (Hendon, C): Many authorities have tried to cut everything but teachers' pay. If there is an increase above 4½ per cent, in many authorities there will have to be a reduction in teachers to cope with the extra cost. That cannot be in anybody's interest.

Sir Keith Joseph: That might in some cases be true of some education authorities at 4½ per cent. Certainly if more were to be contemplated there would have to be reductions in such crucial elements of education as books and equipment and maintenance, and even consideration of reducing the number of teachers.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said class sizes of over 30 meant teachers were doing not so much teaching as crowd control. If the minister was so concerned about education standards why did he not concede the pay award to the teachers? The police got 3.4 per cent. Were not teachers of equal value to the community?

Sir Keith Joseph: Classes of over 30 have been dwindling year by year and the pupil-teacher ratio is at record low levels.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C): Not only is the pupil-teacher ratio but at secondary and primary level at its lowest level. It is considerably lower than the level this government inherited in 1979.

Sir Keith Joseph: He is entirely right. The pupil-teacher ratio is significantly better than was the case when the government came to office.

Mr Giles Radice, Opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab): He said he would stand aloof from this dispute. Far from standing aloof, his own representatives on the Burnham committee have made a settlement far more difficult - most recently by voting, on his instructions, against arbitration, which is the simplest and constitutional way out of teachers' disputes.

Why is he now putting forward such weak arguments against arbitration when only last year the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Environment were urging another public sector group, would not normally receive. To that extent, the scheme is a success.

Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough, C): Will Mr Dunn look for all opportunities to increase the funds available for the assisted places scheme to ensure that the schools, which are the public, ordinary schools for our children, are not disadvantaged by the scheme?

It is disgraceful that public money - money which should be going to ordinary children - is being used in these schools at a time of cuts, cuts and cuts in other areas of the education system.

Mr Dunn: Mr Flannery's hostility towards this scheme is well known. It was designed to help children from disadvantaged and poor homes to have an education they

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): He is not a disgraced situation where the teachers, one of the most orderly sections of the work force, have been provoked into strike action and a young teacher's net take-home pay is around £5,500 a policeman, for instance, with only three months training before he is in uniform and very slender qualifications compared with a teacher, whose training is at least three years on top of the qualification already held, is getting massively more money.

Mr Dunn: I agree entirely with that statement. Financial constraints at the moment do appear to rule out any significant enlargement of the scheme. The matter of course will be kept under review.

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Nicholas Pappas used as bargaining counter

the water workers, to go to arbitration?

Sir Keith Joseph: It is tragic for the country that the Opposition seem to live in a utopia in which money is available without limit and without regard to the consequences.

Mr Radice: He has told the House why, despite the support of the Prime Minister for arbitration for the water workers last year, he is again arbitration this year. But even if he is against it will he not call in the representatives of the trade unions and the employers as a matter of urgency to discuss the dispute?

Sir Keith Joseph: No, but if any component of either group wishes to see me I will be glad to see them. I cannot produce a magic wand and the dispute will be settled when the teachers decide the offer which is still on the table is a fair and realistic one.

Later, during questions to the Prime Minister, Mr Ray Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, asked Mrs Thatcher: Will she explain why the Government has imposed what amounts to a veto on arbitration over the teachers' pay dispute? Why was she so passionate for arbitration in the water workers' dispute and why is she so opposed to it now? Why does she prefer to continue the conflict rather than end that dispute in an honourable, practical and sensible way?

Mrs Thatcher: I heard Sir Keith Joseph answer this question to the effect that the offer was the maximum amount which the taxpayer and ratepayer could afford.

The difference between that and the water workers is obvious. Any increase for the water workers could have been taken by one of three methods - by price, efficiency or by numbers. While for teachers increasing the amount could only be taken by a reduction in numbers.

Mr Hattersley: Would she make clear whether she is now opposed to arbitration in this particular case, or in general? There are many people who say she is opposed to arbitration in total because conflict rather than conciliation meets her party's needs.

Mrs Thatcher: Why does he ask that question when he just indicated I asked people to go to arbitration in a particular case.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, third reading. Motion for the spring adjournment. Lords (2.30): Debates on energy strategy; Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Immunity; and on the probation service.

Mr George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in a written reply: Following a review of the operation of the tenants exchange scheme, a number of changes will be introduced with effect from June 1 to make it more helpful to tenants. At the same time the Scheme will be extended to Scotland.

The right for secure tenants to exchange their homes, provided for in the Housing and Building Control Bill, is expected to come into effect during the summer.

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Thatcher again declines to call in leaders

COAL DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, rejected a plea at question time in the Commons to intervene in the miners' dispute to get the parties round the table. She urged the miners to look at the case on its merits. The National Coal Board, she said, was getting new orders and it was up to the miners to take advantage of the opportunities presented.

Dr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C) asked her: Has she read today the rejection of politically motivated revolutionary campaigns of industrial action by the general secretary of the electricians' union and the CPSA? Does she agree this represents the view of the overwhelming majority of trade unionists and will she urge the miners' leaders that if they will not listen to her then at least they listen to their fellow trade unionists?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with him. The fact is miners have already been offered a larger pay increase than that accepted by power and gas workers. I ask the miners to look at the thing on its merits not only their pay but also investment which is at an all-time record and so far there have been no compulsory redundancies and the redundancy payments are far better than ever provided under any previous government.

Mr Peter Rost (Erewash, C): Now that Mr Scargill has admitted he is manipulating an industrial dispute for the wider objective of overthrowing a democratically elected Government, would the Prime Minister invite to No 10 the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Neil Kinnock) and invite him to declare whether or not his party still believes...

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): He must ask a question for which the Prime Minister has the answer.

Mr Rost: Would the Prime Minister invite to No 10, as one of her responsibilities, the Leader of the Opposition and ask him whether or not his party still believes in democratic Government by the ballot box?

Mrs Thatcher: No, but I ask the coal miners to look at the case on its merits. The NCB or otherwise, it is the miners' strike and the Government by unconstitutional means, aided and abetted by the Labour Party, what conclusion do you draw from the deafening silence of the Labour Party leadership to condemn such actions?

Mrs Thatcher: I have frequently indicated that the Labour Party has always been the strike's friend and appears to be in this case. There is a difference of opinion between one group of miners who are working and earning well to look after their families and giving the coal mining

Swapo claims Nujoma turned down offer of power in Namibia

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The head of South African military counter-intelligence, General Hennie Van Der Westhuizen, had a secret meeting with Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, in Lusaka, and proposed the formation of a government of national unity in Namibia. It is claimed here.

Swapo sources quoted by South African newspaper reporters in Lusaka, the scene of an inconclusive conference on the future of Namibia at the end of last week, said the offer was conveyed by the General on behalf of Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, in February.

The offer would have required Mr Nujoma, whose organization has been fighting a guerrilla war for the past 18 years for Namibia's independence from South Africa, to give the defence, security and internal affairs portfolios to leaders of the Multi-Party Conference (MPC), a grouping of Namibian political parties.

Mr Nujoma, who regards most of the MPC parties as puppets, reportedly refused the deal, but sent his regards to Mr Botha through General Van Der

Westhuizen and two other top South African officers who accompanied him.

It is understood that this meeting was followed up by another between Mr "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Nujoma in Lusaka on April 25, when a South African delegation visited the city for talks with the Angolans. The Nujoma meeting was not reported at the time.

There was no immediate reaction here to the Lusaka reports. However, on the eve of last week's Lusaka conference, the Foreign Minister told Parliament in Cape Town that his Government would be prepared to negotiate with a "government of national unity" in Namibia that included Swapo.

At the time, observers did not know what to make of this statement, which begins to make more sense in the light of the latest claims.

It also tends to confirm that South Africa is trying to get away from the United Nations procedure for Namibian independence, which envisages UN-

supervised elections to a constituent assembly.

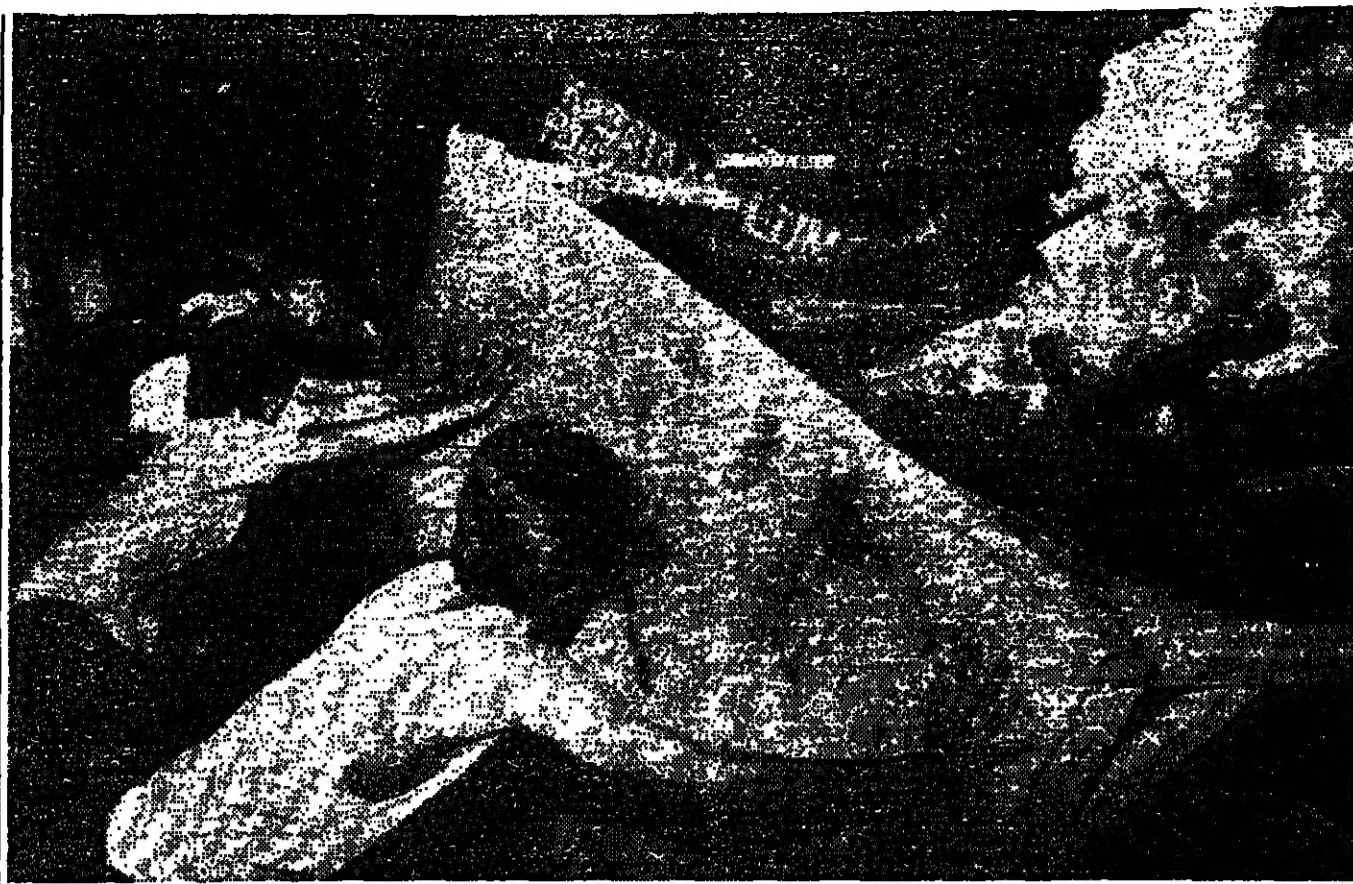
Pretoria's strategy seems to be to persuade Swapo to join some kind of caretaker government with other Namibian political parties before the holding of elections. This body would then negotiate certain aspects of the future Namibian constitution with South Africa, as well as a security agreement.

For the moment Swapo seems to have resisted this ploy. Pretoria appears to hope that pressure from Angola, where Swapo's bases are being closed down, or at any rate neutralized, could still convince Mr Nujoma of the merits of the South African scheme.

Mr Nujoma believes that he would win any elections hands down, on the basis of his organization's support among the Ovambo who account for 50 per cent of Namibia's population of just over 1 million.

He is thus reluctant even to go through the motions of sharing power, but he has already accepted some of the internal parties as allies.

Leading article, page 11



In fiery mood: A protest blaze is lit against alleged efforts to tamper with Philippines poll results.

Shaken Marcos poised to lose Manila

From Our Special Correspondent, Manila

Philippine voters have given President Ferdinand Marcos notice that his imperial style of government must change. With about half the votes counted in the country's general elections, opposition parties have made dramatic gains in urban areas, even in the face of widespread manipulation and intimidation of voters on both sides. The opposition is expected to win a majority of the Manila seats according to unofficial results.

President Marcos admitted last night that the opposition parties could have between 40 and 45 in the 183-seat Parliament as against 13 in the old interim body.

That estimate may prove to be conservative but whatever the final figure the opposition has made itself felt in the cities. Some estimates say its support may run as high as 80 per cent in some areas, but it is unlikely to be clear for some time as polling returns come in from all over the country's thousands of islands.

"It's a good lesson," said an American diplomat. And I hope it's been learned."

The day after polling day saw the death toll rise to 91 amid allegations of misbehavior of ballot boxes and failure to deliver results to the Commission on Elections which is

responsible for producing official results.

Mr Salvador Laurel, a leading opposition figure, went to the Commission to protest over delays in counting and in making returns known. The President himself has urged the Commission to make known its results as soon as possible.

In the business district constituency of Makati, scene of anti-Marcos protests last year, things became particularly tense. It is a sensitive constituency because the opposition candidate there is Mrs Au Au Manotoc, under Philippine law still married to Mr Tommy Manotoc, who obtained a South

American divorce last year to marry the President's daughter Imee. It appears the former Mrs Manotoc failed to gain the Makati seat but the President's daughter was handsomely elected in the family's native province Ilocos Norte.

The Prime Minister, Mr Cesar Virata, won a Parliamentary seat at his first attempt despite the efforts of the President's wife Mrs Imelda Marcos to limit his influence.

Mr Marcos retains the power to appoint his Cabinet and an additional 17 members of Parliament. He also has the power to dissolve the body.

Baghdad accused of biological warfare

From Frederick Bonhart, Brussels

Skin horribly inflamed, head and genitals swollen, the body of what had once been an Iranian soldier, flits still clinging in his death agony, was lying on a slab in Ghent University Clinic. It showed symptoms which, according to an eminent Belgian scientist, proved the use of biological warfare agents by Iraq in the Gulf War.

Dr A. Heyndrickx, professor of toxicology at Ghent University, said in a lecture at the International Royal Institute of International Relations in Brussels on Monday that his analysis of the symptoms on Iranian soldiers sent to Belgium for treatment proved that they had been exposed to mycotoxins, in addition to the better-known mustard gas and tabun chemical and nerve agents.

While the latter are easily made and could be manufactured by Third World countries, mycotoxins, which are biological agents, can only be produced by more advanced countries and are therefore presumed to have been supplied to Iraq by outside sources.

The professor's findings are disputed. Mycotoxins are difficult to trace because they affect humans very differently to

mustard gas and tabun. The latter have been proved to have been used in Iraq. Similar work has also been done at universities in Austria, West Germany and Switzerland but none at any state laboratories. Dr Heyndrickx maintained that some of his findings had been suppressed by governments.

He had tested blood, urine and faeces taken from 265 soldiers and is convinced that mycotoxins were used. He said photographs of the corpses of some Afghan refugees had shown identical symptoms.

Afghan resistance fighters have recently been reported to have requested supplies of gas masks. The victims of the so-called "yellow rain" agents, alleged to have been used in Cambodia and Laos, also show similar symptoms, according to Dr Heyndrickx.

● BRUSSELS: The European Community agreed in principle yesterday to ban exports of five compounds used to make chemical weapons (AP reports). Several members have already imposed individual bans, and others are planning to do so, the French Minister for European Affairs, Mr Roland Dumas, told reporters.

Heseltine in Brussels

New will on arms

From Our Correspondent, Brussels

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, said here yesterday that there was a new mood in Europe to secure greater cooperation in arms procurement. This should improve the two-way street of arms production between the United States and Europe now running at about 1 to 1 in favour of the US at present.

He was speaking after a meeting of Nato's European defence ministers in a body called Eurogroup, of which he is this year's chairman. It was important, in the interest of decisions to be taken now, to ensure that European groupings could be set up before weapons systems were in the research and development stage, let alone in production. This, he said, was the only way European industry could remain in the forefront of technology in the defence field.

He referred to a resolution by the independent European pro-

gramme group, which meets at senior official level and, unlike Eurogroup, also includes France, as an example of the way Europe was moving.

The resolution states that the increasing political will to cooperate should now be transformed into concrete action and that national armaments planning should be based on European solutions.

This needed government to government cooperation to coordinate major equipment replacement schedules as a prerequisite for industry-to-industry cooperation.

A European defence industry group consisting of representatives of European industrial companies has been formed.

A large number of important projects were selected by Nato recently in order to raise the conventional defensive power of the alliance, mainly by the exploitation of new technology.

Iraq denies hitting Kuwaiti tankers

Kuwait (Reuters) - The

Kuwaiti Cabinet held an emergency session yesterday to discuss attacks on two Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf and the country's Parliament called on the Government to react firmly.

Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Foreign Minister, said after the meeting that investigations into the attacks would be concluded later.

The Kuwaiti tanker Bahrah was hit by an unidentified plane east of the Saudi coast on Monday and the Umm Casbah, also Kuwait-owned, was hit in the same area the day before.

Iraq has usually claimed responsibility for attacking ships in the Gulf but denied hitting the vessels belonging to Kuwait, one of its strongest financial backers in the Gulf war.

Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, was due in Kuwait last night for talks expected to deal with the recent attacks, including two on Saudi tankers.

Although Saudi Arabia is also one of Iraq's strongest allies, the Iraqis strongly hinted that they had hit the Saudi ships, blaming them for loading oil at Iraq's Kharg island. The Kuwaiti ships had not loaded Iranian oil.

Kuwait's Parliament condemned the attacks on Kuwaiti ships and urged the Government "to take decisive action to deal with this grave matter which threatens the security and interests of Kuwait".

● WASHINGTON: Mr Ariel Sharon, former Israeli Defence Minister, said on Monday that Israel had supplied arms to Iran years in the past, with the knowledge of the American Administration (Moshin Ali writes).

But during a meeting sponsored by a local synagogue at Bridgeport, Connecticut, he did not say exactly when. He said it would be a serious mistake to let the Iraqis win the war. "They are one of the most radical regimes in the world..."

Diplomatic sources here said that Israel had on one occasion in the early 1980s supplied parts for American-made military aircraft to Iran. But they emphasised that since then there had been no sales.

An Israeli embassy spokesman said there was no contact whatsoever between the Israeli Government and the present Iranian regime.

Sidon HQ handed over

From Christopher Walker, Sidon

Speculation that Israel is contemplating the secondary withdrawal from areas of southern Lebanon before the July 23 general election was increased yesterday by a symbolic ceremony at which control of the former Israeli headquarters in Sidon was handed back to a representative of Lebanon's central Government.

The handover was carried out by Major-General Antoine Lahd, the man who succeeded the late Major Saad Haddad as commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), an Israeli-backed militia numbering 2,500 men. He is regarded by Jerusalem as the key - but still militarily unproven - factor to any further reduction of Israel's presence.

The Israelis, who gave the shell-shattered buildings to the SLA two months ago, were present as the tiny bugles sounded and the Lebanese flag was raised, but took no active part in the proceedings. They have made clear they are banking on the SLA to take over policing of much of southern Lebanon and yesterday they looked like theatrical agents anxiously watching the debut of a new protégé.

The move came at a time

when Sidon is filled with rumours of plans for a further Israeli redeployment southwards, none of which has been substantiated by Israeli spokesmen. Reports circulating in Israel that the Cabinet recently held an unpublished discussion about future plans in Lebanon have added to the always pervasive atmosphere of uncertainty.

Whatever the intentions of Israel's ruling Likud coalition in advance of polling day, there is no disguising the attitude of many ordinary soldiers. They appear to want to spend as little time as possible patrolling the exposed streets of Sidon, the predominantly Muslim port city with a population of 250,000 where scores of ambushes against them have been mounted.

As the car I was driving at the head of an army-escorted convoy of six vehicles left the ceremony to return the 28 miles to the border, the normally relaxed reserve captain mounting guard in the passenger seat said as possible Uzi sub-machine gun, was suddenly fired. "Drive as fast as you can until we are out of this city," he instructed. "This is not a nice place to be."

Observers believe that Is-

Church role in Solidarity negotiations

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

For the first time, the Government admitted yesterday that it was conducting politically sensitive negotiations with the Roman Catholic Church about the possible release of the Solidarity leader, Poland's most important political prisoners.

Although the announcement by Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, did not exactly lift the curtain of secrecy over the talks, it did mark a new phase in the bargaining.

It also demonstrated that the Government is still anxious to avoid a show trial of the Solidarity 11, a move that would jeopardize the early lifting of the West's economic sanctions.

The Roman Catholic Church issued an identical statement yesterday.

From the start both sides were in agreement that the evolution and contents of the talks must remain secret.

Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski, secretary of the bishops, who has been leading the church negotiations, flew on to Rome to present the results so far to the Vatican strategists. The Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, will join him in the next few days and both men are expected to discuss the negotiations with the Pope.

Since Easter, the Government has tried to use former Solidarity advisers as intermediaries, believing that they would be better able to persuade the Solidarity 11 to accept the terms of their release.

The government idea has been either that the prisoners would renounce politics for two and a half years or accept a form of temporary emigration, with their return to Poland guaranteed by the United Nations. The prisoners have refused to accept, both offers and at least one - Dr Adam Michnik - has said he will accept either a trial or unconditional freedom.

The spokesman announced yesterday that the main underground leader in prison, Waldemar Frasyniuk, has been given an additional 10 months sentence on top of the three years he is serving for oppositional activities.

Zhao's 50-year guarantee

From David Bonavia, Peking

"It is a firm policy that China will resume the exercise of its sovereignty over Hongkong in 1997," Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Addressing the opening session of the National People's Congress, Mr Zhao added: "To maintain the stability and prosperity of Hongkong, a series of special policies towards Hongkong will be adopted upon the resumption of China's exercise of sovereignty, and these policies will remain unchanged for 50 years."

These policies took into account "the historical and present conditions of Hongkong," he said, while emphasizing the fundamental interests of the country as a whole, including Hongkong.

● Superpower pledge: China will try to improve relations with Washington and Moscow



Mr Zhao: Special policies for Hongkong.

but never play off one superpower against the other. Mr Zhao said yesterday.

He blamed what he called the acute confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States for world tensions.

US judge orders fresh 'Briefgate' review

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Just when the Reagan Administration believed it has laid the so-called "Briefgate" controversy to rest, a US judge has ordered a special inquiry into how the 1980 presidential campaign for Ronald Reagan managed to obtain briefing papers from the Carter White House.

The Federal district judge, Mr Harold Greene, saying that the case bore "an uncanny resemblance to Watergate," has called for the appointment of an independent counsel, or special prosecutor, to investigate possible crimes by senior Reagan officials.

The Justice Department, which closed its own investigation of the "Briefgate" case earlier this year, said it would appeal.

ling of the case by Mr William French Smith, the Attorney-General, had been arbitrary and unlawful. He rejected Mr Smith's argument that no judge had legal authority to review the Justice Department's conclusion that there was "no credible evidence that the transfer of the Carter papers violated any criminal law."

Judge Greene cited admissions made last year by Mr James Baker, President Reagan's chief of staff, Mr David Stockman, the budget director and others who said they had received what Mr Stockman once called "filched" Carter papers.

The judge also cited statements by Mr William Casey, head of the CIA, contradicting Mr Baker's statement that Mr Casey had given him the papers.

Hongkong firms may invest in Mauritius

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

About 50 of Hongkong's bigger companies are showing interest in Mauritius, Sir Gaetan Duval, Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius, said in London yesterday. Sir Gaetan and the Industry Minister, Mr C. Pillay, are in Britain with a small delegation to persuade companies here to invest in their country. They see Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, today.

Unemployment - one in five among working population is in need of a job - remains the biggest problem facing the nine-month-old Mauritius Government. The two ministers want to thank Sir Geoffrey for encouraging some Gulf states to employ Mauritians.

New York art bonanza as Big Moma expands

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

New York's Big Moma has grown even bigger. Moma is the Museum of Modern Art, one of the world's most magnificent institutions and it is reopening tomorrow after expansion and renovation which doubles its exhibition space.

The museum now dominates the north side of West 53rd Street between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas in mid-town Manhattan. To its original building, the stark white marble and glass block considered daring when it was opened in 1939, has been added a great wing.

This six-storey expansion in grey, white and blue glass is surrounded by a 44-floor apartment block known as Museum Tower.

With the original structure,

the east wing added 20 years ago, and the new west wing, the museum stretches for nearly 100 yards, an impressive and massive glass-panelled home for some of the world's greatest art collections.

Moma was founded in 1929 by seven people who wanted to encourage public appreciation of twentieth-century visual art. It started off in rented space and was then in a house before it moved to its avant-garde building in 1939.

From an initial kernel of eight prints and a drawing, the museum's collection has grown to more than 100,000 works: sculptures, paintings, drawings, photographs, films and industrial and textile designs. The museum was a pioneer in recognizing film and photography as art forms.

Spy's life sentence for selling to KGB

Los Angeles - A San Francisco judge yesterday jailed James D. Watson, aged 49, for life after he sold defence secrets to Poland, which then passed them to the KGB (Ivor Davies writes).

Judge Samuel Conti said Harper, an engineer, peddled the documents to Polish agents for between \$250,000 (£180,000) and \$1m, "not for philosophical reasons, but for greed and money."

The papers, which assessed US strategies against surprise nuclear attacks, were given to Harper by his wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, a secretary at a Silicon Valley research company. She died last summer. The judge said Harper should never be released, although he will be eligible for parole in 1993.

Basque group admits killing

Madrid - An apparently new guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for Monday's underwater explosion which killed a Spanish naval rating and blew up at launch in Fuenlabrada, near the Basque country (Richard Wigg writes).

Police are not certain, however, whether Gatazka, meaning struggle in Basque, is genuinely new or a front organization for ETA, which has attacked naval targets before.

Hindu violence crosses border

Delhi (Reuters) - Punjab violence spread to neighbouring Haryana yesterday, where more than 30 people were killed during demonstrations over the murder of a Hindu newspaper editor.

Police armed with batons charged stone-throwing protesters in the town of Rohtak. In the Punjab town of Jullundur, about 3,000 people attended funeral services for the editor, Mr Ramesh Chander.

Papers accused

Harare (Reuters) - The Herald newspaper in Zimbabwe has attacked British press reports of alleged army atrocities in Manicaland, singling out The Sunday Times and The Times for criticism. The Herald said these newspapers catered for the British ruling class which saw nothing good in Zimbabwe.

Jazzman's will

Handleader Count Basie who left his \$1.5m (£1m) estate to his 40-year-old daughter, Diane Basie lived with her father in Freeport, the Bahamas. The estate will be held in trust and administered for her.

Connexion cut

Moscow - The Russians have withdrawn direct telephone dialling from the West to Moscow as suddenly and inexplicably as they had restored it last week. Automatic dialling was first introduced for the Moscow Olympics four years ago but abolished for "technical reasons" in 1982.

Australian inquiry on atom tests

From Tony Daboulis, Melbourne

The federal Government has set up a committee to investigate whether any Australians were put at risk by British nuclear tests here in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is headed by Professor Charles Kerr of Sydney University's preventive and social medicine unit, the Cabinet announced yesterday. It has been given just 16 days in which to report back.

After talks on Monday with Mrs Thatcher and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Hayden said that arrangements for the 12 nuclear explosions "carried out by Britain between 1952 and 1957 had been 'careless, if not downright incompetent'."

British assurance: Britain has assured Australia that it will make available all possible information about nuclear tests at Maralinga between 1952 and 1963 (Simon Scott Plummer writes).

After talks on Monday with Mrs Thatcher and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Hayden said that arrangements for the 12 nuclear explosions "carried out by Britain between 1952 and 1957 had been 'careless, if not downright incompetent'."

Hart pins his hope on Oregon

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Senator Gary Hart, mounting a vigorous last-ditch campaign against Mr Walter Mondale, his main rival for the Democratic nomination, yesterday hoped to notch up two more primary victories in Oregon and Nebraska.

Mr Hart, who appeared buoyant after his recent upset defeats of Mr Mondale in Ohio and Indiana, was strongly favoured to win in Oregon, where 43 delegates were at stake.

The Colorado senator had mounted an active campaign in the state which used to play a big role in presidential politics between the 1940s and 1960s, whereas Mr Mondale had ignored it, preferring to concentrate his dwindling funds on the blockbuster primary, which takes place in neighbouring California on June 5.

Mr Hart was also given the edge in Nebraska, where 24 delegates will be pledged on the basis of yesterday's voting.

The Hart camp hoped that good wins in yesterday's races would strengthen his hand.

Jackson five, page 8

Central America sours de la Madrid greeting

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico began his first state visit to the United States yesterday on a note of tension between the two countries over the crisis in Central America.

Officials of both governments concede that there is little prospect of closing the gap during the Mexican President's three-day trip.

Señor de la Madrid delivered a barbed appeal to the US to follow the principles of international law established by the countries of the American continent, a clear reference to the planting of mines by the Central Intelligence Agency in the three main harbours of Nicaragua earlier this year.

Speaking on the south lawn of the White House during the welcoming ceremonies, he said the principles to be followed included self-determination, non-intervention, equality of states before the law and peaceful solution of conflicts.

"Peace has been disrupted in Central America and the risk of a generalized war, the scope and duration of which no one can foresee, is growing," he said. "Every country on the continent must do its utmost to restore peace and avoid war by respecting and upholding the

sovereign right of its people to decide their own destiny."

Mexico prides itself on independence in foreign policy and American officials say there will be no attempt to try to persuade President de la Madrid to distance himself from Nicaragua and Cuba.

The Central American crisis will dominate the visit, although during talks with President Reagan at the White House yesterday there was discussion of trade problems and the effect of high interest rates. Mexico has imposed severe economic measures to meet interest payments on its external debt of \$80 billion (\$57 billion).

President Reagan's welcoming speech also contained some barbs. "For the United States the confagration in Central America appears too close to ignore," he said. "Like a fire in one's neighbourhood, this threat should be of concern to every nation in the hemisphere."

He did not mention Nicaragua or Cuba by name, but referred to those who poured petrol on to the fires by pumping massive supplies of weapons into Central America.

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Soviet conquest of valley appears secure but fierce fighting continues

The Soviet conquest of the strategic Panjshir valley in Afghanistan has moved to a new stage in the past week, according to western diplomatic sources in Delhi. The floor of the valley is now reported to be more or less secure - although there are still occasional reports of Soviet-backed troops being compelled to withdraw - and the fight has now been taken to the side valleys.

The principal valleys involved in the struggle appear to be those on the southern wall of the Panjshir, and the key Andarab valley which leads out of the Panjshir to the northern

side of the Hindu Kush. It is the only relatively easy route north out of Kabul apart from the heavily-guarded Salang pass.

Most diplomatic sources agree that fighting in the side valleys has been fierce, and that the Soviet and regime forces have taken a number of casualties.

One Western spokesman said that helicopter-borne troops had been lifted into the Andarab valley. According to what were described as "multiple sources" there was heavy fighting at the valley mouth.

At the beginning of May a Soviet telegram was reported to

have left Jalalabad in the south to head for the valley. Instead of travelling what would have been a normal route along the Kabul river gorge the column turned north and apparently entered the Panjshir area through the Hazara valley. At the same time a column from Gulbaha at the mouth of the Panjshir also moved into the Hazara valley, trapping any Mujahideen forces inside.

Snow in the high valleys has hampered the operations of regular troops and the guerrillas, but there has been a flood of casualties into hospitals in and around Kabul.

According to the diplomats, grave diggers at the "Martyrs' cemetery" in Kabul have been working overtime with up to 40 burials a day. Early in May four large loads of Afghan dead were sent to Kabul airport and the conveyance of ambulances from the airport to area hospitals "is a common sight".

Blood and plasma are said to be in short supply.

Two skillful runs on the part of the Russians have led to a number of Mujahideen being trapped. According to one source the Soviets staged a false airstrip of troops using dum-dums, to attract Mujahideen fire. The locations of rebel firing were pinpointed and promptly attacked by helicopter gun ships.



'Our decision to compete is irrevocable'

Yugoslav reshuffle brings in talented pragmatists

Yugoslavia conducted a major reshuffle in the state presidency yesterday as well as in other institutions which the late President Tito created to prevent a power struggle after his death.

In the four years since Tito's death Yugoslavia has had serious economic problems and

many deficiencies have come to light in the system itself.

The most important change in the reshuffle was that five of the nine members of the state presidency were replaced.

The new personalities in the team are significant. The five newcomers are not liberals. Mr Stane Dolanc, who

represents Slovenia, is Federal Secretary in charge of internal

affairs and is regarded as one of Yugoslavia's ablest politicians. Mr Branko Mikulic, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, recently proved his organizational talent when, starting from scratch, he organized the winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo.

There are also two men with experience as Foreign Minister

- Mr Josip Vrhovec from Croatia, and Mr Lazar Mojsov, who is currently in charge of the foreign department. Serbia is represented by General Nikola Ljubovic, who was Defence Secretary from the 1960s until Tito's death.

Bush visit to India ends on a rueful note

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi

Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, concluded his visit to India yesterday on a slightly rueful note. Noting that his talks with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister had been "friendly, frank, and I think, productive," he admitted that there were differences between their attitudes. He identified one area of disagreement as "financial arrangements with multilateral institutions" - a reference to America's lack of enthusiasm for increased payments to the International Development Bank, and other lending organizations. He also spoke of "differences in relations, which I have glossed over." During a press conference called to mark the end of his meetings

He said that "we have assured our Indian friends" that arms sent to their neighbours, Pakistan, "are not in way intended to destabilize them. We are not trying to diminish India's interests in any way at all."

Mr Bush flew last night to Islamabad, where he was assured of a rather warmer welcome. The United States is a major arms supplier to the regime of President Zia Haq, but even here Mr Bush said yesterday the "we have made it very very clear to Pakistan, that it is not in our interest to upgrade some of the equipment that they have."

Russian fires on crowd

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

A Russian soldier in Kabul let fly with his automatic rifle at a crowd of people waiting at a bus stand at week end, at least six people died and 12 others.

The incident happened at the Taimand bus depot at evening rush hour on May 7. A jeep carrying three or four uniformed soldiers careered out of the Soviet enclave at Khairkhana nearby and drove erratically up to the bus stand where 24 people were waiting. The soldier in the rear of the jeep opened fire, sweeping the crowd with bullets. The jeep did a U-

turn, the soldier opened fire again and the jeep stormed back into Khairkhana.

According to eyewitnesses the wounded included three girls aged 15, a uniformed Afghan officer, several soldiers, a woman with a child and several old people.

One report said that the soldier who opened fire had been startled by the crowd's sudden surge. Diplomats say the more likely explanation is that the jeep's onslaught was a revenge raid for an ambush in which seven Russians died.

Hanoi's search for friends

China syndrome dominates policy

Obsessed with China and heavily dependent on Russia, Hanoi is trying to broaden its international links, as David Watts, South-East Asia Correspondent, reports in the last of three articles on Vietnam.

For a country its enemies claim is on the verge of economic and diplomatic collapse, Vietnam shows remarkable resilience.

Ties with Western countries are cool at best and Vietnam's sources of Western technology are limited to Sweden and the United Nations development programme.

On the northern frontier China threatens to "bleed Vietnam white" with the help of some friends in South-East Asia. Even fellow members of the Soviet bloc, such as Romania and North Korea, recognize the Cambodian resistance coalition which opposes the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia. The new American friendship with China ensures that there will be no early balancing act of Vietnam's relations between East and West.

The one bright spot for Hanoi's leaders at present is Australia, where the Hawke Government hopes to repeat the historic breakthrough the Australian Labour Party made in helping to open up China to the West.

So important is this "new friend" to Hanoi, in fact, that a mission to search for missing Australian servicemen - will arrive this month ahead of a similar American mission which was put off earlier for "technical reasons". The Vietnamese are pointedly allowing the Australians to go straight into the countryside to search for missing bodies, something the Americans have never been allowed to do.

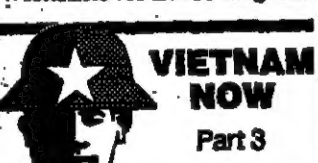
The key to broadening Vietnam's foreign contacts and sources of assistance is the unresolved problem of Cambodia. Get some sort of compromise there and Hanoi could move away from what Mr Pham Binh, the director of Vietnam's Institute of Foreign Relations, calls "the one option - the Soviet Union. Two options are good and three are even better," he said. Throughout our two weeks in Vietnam the message from all government officials was always the same: Vietnam wants a broader spread of relations.

But they were equally single-minded in their vision of China as a constant, menacing force waiting for the slightest sign of weakness.

To party officials the Chinese connexion with the Khmer Rouge struggle to regain power in Cambodia is so manifestly a threat to Vietnam and the undesirability of allowing Pol Pot to return to power so clear that it scarcely needs repeating.

The long historical view prevails. Where else in the world would an army commander go back to the year 979 to put his opinion of the implacable Chinese into perspective?

Unfortunately for the Vietnamese, the memories of Westerners are not so long and



they are more likely to look at legal rather than historical arguments.

To the Vietnamese the Chinese threat transcends everything. If the Western governments are unable to comprehend that or prefer to pursue policies pleasing to Washington and Peking then Hanoi will just have to bide its time for aid. After all, the Chinese dominated Vietnam for one thousand years and the present little contretemps with the West, in its colonial and post-colonial forms, has lasted a mere 30 years.

At the drop of a journalist's question, the Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, will rail against the countries which, he believes, should take a more independent stance in their policies towards Vietnam, especially Japan.

"Making aid conditional on Kampuchea is an insult to my country. We are not beggars. If Japan thinks that it can dictate to my country they are wrong."

Singapore comes in for some equally strong words yet it is these two countries - free economies that are contributing the most indirectly through trade, to the rehabilitation of the Vietnamese economy.

Concluded

Captain admits forcing stowaways to jump

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The Greek captain and 11 crew members of the 16,000-ton freighter Garifalakis were charged yesterday with abuse of power and causing grievous bodily harm to eleven young Kenyan stowaways. The men have admitted forcing the stowaways to jump overboard into a sea full of sharks, while sailing off the Somali coast on March 17.

The men were arrested after the ship docked in Piraeus last week, and four crewmen denounced them to the authorities. They claimed that captain Antonis Pityzopoulos and several crewmen had forced the stowaways into lifebelts, from which the ship's name had been erased, and beat them with steel rods to make them jump, although some pleaded they could not swim.

The captain told the investigating magistrates that there was no news of the stowaways. A spokesman for the ship's agents denied all knowledge of the incident.

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Say 'the Leeds' and you're smiling

SPECTRUM

Presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson has shaken conventional assumptions with his plain, forceful language, but William Greider asks if he can translate that charisma into something more lasting

Is Jackson's jive enough?

Listening to Jesse Jackson's rich metaphors, watching him charm and inspire crowds, I was reminded of someone from the political past, but I couldn't figure out who. Finally, it came to me - George Wallace.

Both Jackson and Wallace are political outsiders who invaded the world of orthodox presidential politics and shook up conventional assumptions. They were able to do that because both are brilliant at the lost art of American politics - speaking to common folk in plain and forceful language.

In some ways, of course, the comparison is terribly unfair. But it poses the right question about Jesse Jackson's extraordinary campaign of 1984, for he faces a dilemma similar to Wallace's. The issue is whether Jesse can translate his flash and charisma into a lasting position of influence, whether he is smart enough to rise above his limitations and play in the big leagues of national politics. In short, can Jesse Jackson become something more than a black version of George Wallace?

Wallace threw a fright into the regular order of presidential politics in 1968 and 1972, providing a voice of protest for the millions who felt ignored and abused. Jesse Jackson, likewise, has aroused millions of disenfranchised Americans - mainly poor blacks who have never voted before - and inspired them to enter the electoral process. Yet, like George Wallace, Jesse Jackson has a disabling stain of character that may well subvert the positive impact he could have on American politics in the future.

Wallace was never able to grasp genuine political power, because everyone in the Democratic Party understood that the core of his appeal was anti-black sentiment. In a less obvious sense, Jesse Jackson now has a similar problem: the whiff of anti-Semitism in his public persona. It contradicts everything he is trying to do and may prove fatal to his long-term political prospects if he does not deal with it.

But, it is the jive talk and biblical metaphor that makes him so compelling.

"Stop the killing abroad and start healing at home."

"It's cheaper to feed the child than to jail the man."

"America is not one big piece of cloth. America is a quilt with many different colours and textures, all patched together. The genius of our country is that everybody fits in."

"I can talk to the superpowers. I've been talking to the Superpower all my life."

Everyone in the church smiled, laughed or chanted in assent. "That's right. Amen." In the pulpit, Jackson is irresistible, a master of the melodramatic cadences of the black preacher, with his artful repetition and eloquent allusions. "If you want someone who will speak for the poor," he booms, "here am I. Send me. If you want one who believes in peace and lives accordingly, here am I. Send me."

None of this eloquence, of course, makes very good headlines, and the lasting impression Jackson leaves among unsympathetic white voters is, in all probability, as a candidate with glib tongue and not much else. This is wrong and unfair. There is actually a rather high quotient of substance - real issues and well-developed positions - in Jesse Jackson's rhetoric, but it's packaged for the common people, not for the media.

'He yearns to be a permanent force'

Looking back, it is not clear that George Wallace ever knew exactly what he wanted to accomplish in national politics, aside from scaring the hell out of the Democratic establishment. Jesse Jackson wants much more. He yearns to become a permanent political force who can take his place at the inner councils, a responsible power broker and maybe even a serious contender for high office someday. He is only 42 years old, which gives him a wide horizon upon which to imagine his own future.

Jackson's ambitions, though never stated so directly, are obvious when he talks about what he hopes to accomplish at the Democratic conven-



Jive talk and biblical metaphor: Rev Jesse Jackson addresses a political rally in Washington

tion in San Francisco. The party's managers are very nervous about that question, fearful that Jackson will stage the kind of theatrical confrontation he employed as a young insurgent a decade ago. They know that the Democratic nominee must come to terms with Jackson, because his active campaigning for the ticket this fall will be crucial for producing a huge turnout of new black voters. If Jackson's terms are too outrageous, the bargaining might be counterproductive.

That will be the dilemma for whoever gets the nomination. Jackson's dilemma is the same thing turned inside out. In order to demonstrate strength and steadfastness to his followers, Jackson must win some concessions from the Democratic leaders on behalf of his constituency. But if he reaches too far, demanding the impossible, he'll become merely disruptive - a permanent outsider, like George Wallace. It's a delicate proposition and will be a fair test of Jackson's political savvy: If he manoeuvres successfully through the next two months, then he will probably retain considerable influence, whether party leaders like it or not.

The candidate himself seems sensi-

tive to these risks. At the convention, "my role would be to expand our party, not to divide it," Jackson says. "My role would be to redeem and reconcile our party, not to destroy it. People who keep seeing me in the confrontational role are dealing with a stereotype, drawing a straw man that's not me."

Jackson's advisers, led by a brainy young political scientist named Ron Walters, are presently translating the candidate's agenda into tangible declarations that will be presented at the Democratic platform hearings. "My commitment is fairly broad and obvious," says Jackson. "I'm for peace abroad and social justice at home. . . . Will Jesse Jackson make a big floor fight? Will he make demands that would make the candidate jump off the cliff? No, I will be clear, and I will represent the demands of the rainbow coalition, but I don't see that as an angry confrontation."

There are many areas where all our interests converge, and I think that the more problems we resolve before the convention, the better. Most of these issues can be negotiated and settled beforehand."

The principal item on Jackson's list

is the introduction of political reforms that would greatly improve the chances of minority candidates' winning state and local offices. Ultimately, these would influence future presidential nominations as well. One of Jackson's strongest contributions to the political dialogue this season has been to educate everyone on the enduring inequities of election rules - barriers that make it much more difficult for minority candidates to win, even when there are large concentrations of minority voters.

Some of Jackson's positions, like reducing US troop commitments to Europe and Japan, are simply too advanced for Mondale and Hart. My impression is that Jackson won't push such issues to the point of stark conflict. But I suspect he will insist on a new look at American priorities. If Jackson can use his new leverage to move the Democratic Party towards a more honest statement of war-and-peace priorities, it will be a worthy struggle. Conventional wisdom, of course, holds that Democrats must support the military spending spurge, lest they be accused of weakness. But in the crisis-torn world, this deserves to be decided as a matter of deep

principle, not political advantage. Besides, if American voters want another four years of hawkish belligerence and obscene military budgets, they will surely elect Reagan over any pale Democratic imitation.

Jackson has been trying to goad Mondale and Hart to confront the toughest question they would face, if elected: If a new Democratic president wants to spend billions of dollars rebuilding America's roads, bridges, schools and basic industries, where will the money come from? Jackson has an answer - cut the defence budget and raise taxes. "We need a plan and a policy to end slums and revitalize cities and put America back to work," Jackson says, "but you can't do that and keep on allowing the military budget to go up. We've got a war budget in peacetime. Hart and Mondale are not as bad as Reagan, but they're going in the same direction. There's no evidence from either of them of a new direction on our budget priorities."

'I will represent the rainbow coalition'

Jackson has moderated his posture on certain volatile issues - particularly the Middle East. For some years, he has identified himself with the Palestinian cause, touring Arab nations and meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. This year, he's insisting upon "mutual recognition" of Israel by the hostile Arab governments as part of a Palestinian settlements.

"All of us want the same thing - peace in the Middle East," Jackson says. "It's a question of strategy. Mondale and Hart have painted themselves into a corner by pandering to Israeli concerns about moving our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, when even many Israelis are opposed to that. That's a diversion that doesn't contribute anything. We've got to spend more time trying to get the Arabs to stop the onerous war against Israel, rather than just selling more arms to both sides. That's got to be done with negotiation. We've got to work out some sort of mutual recognition."

This sort of talk does not sound like a man bent on creating a dramatic showdown at San Francisco. It sounds more like a young politician who sees a future for himself, who'd like to deliver a memorable speech at the convention hall that would ignite the party and send the troops marching off to victory in the fall.

If that happens, Jesse Jackson's political influence will be secure for the future. If Jackson's candidacy produces only the kind of conflict and disunity that will help reelect Ronald Reagan, then he will lose his stature. If that were to happen, Jesse Jackson really would be remembered as just a different version of George Wallace.

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The author is national editor of Rolling Stone

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD
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2. ARCHIE MURDOCH arrives at the making shed shortly after sun-rise. A maltman of 17 years' standing, he can judge the quality of the barley (grown on wind-swept estates in the glens of Ross-shire) by sifting the grain through his hands. Once he has satisfied himself that nature, and the harvesters, have done their job, only then can the day's distilling begin.

Handcrafted by the Sixteen Men of Tain.

Just a whim-fashioned thought

moreover . . . Miles Kingston

It always gives me a thrill when I spot a new usage creep into the language, like *coypus* infiltrating the hitherto uncoupled landscape of Norfolk, and I would like everyone to give a big hand to the hyphenated noun-plus-participle, masquerading as an adjective.

If that sounds ugly, and it's meant to, let me give you an example. "Index-linked pension." A noun, a hyphen, a participle. We all know what it means. It means inflation-proof. Only to make it sound slightly grander, we say that it is linked to the cost-of-living index. It doesn't sound too bad, but then one *coypus* in the landscape is quite acceptable.

Another now common example is the description of diseases like cancer as "smoking-related." This is an adjective used by scientists who are perfectly certain that smoking causes cancer but haven't finally proved it, so are reduced to saying that it is linked to smoking. Quite unobjectionable, but two *coypus* in the countryside should cause no alarm.

When a third appears, I do begin to hear alarm bells. It appeared in the *Herald Tribune*, about a month ago. In the run-up to the elections in the Philippines, nearly a dozen people had been shot or otherwise done to death for their political beliefs, or ambitions, and the Trib had referred to these incidents as "election-related deaths". These linguistic *coypus* are obviously beginning to mate and have strange offspring.

The fourth *coypus* was duly sighted last week, again in the *Herald Tribune*. (Let nobody think I am criticizing this excellent paper, which is the first one I turn to every morning.) They printed a photograph of a man riding on horseback with water up to his knees, down the main street of a small American town. The presence of so much water, the caption explained, was due to "rain-caused floods".

Now, this is where we must start to call a halt, or to go out and shoot these pesky *coypus* before they take a hold. This little construction will become a bad habit, a reflex-linked action, before we know where we are. I suspect that we are dealing with an American-derived fad, which is why it is a *Tribune*-associated phenomenon, that Paris-domiciled newspaper being an expatriate-orientated publication though it is also a European-angled daily. That, if you didn't notice, was an example-stuffed sentence. I find the whole thing a nausea-operated topic.

The unwieldiness of it comes out best if we apply it to a well-known piece of writing. Here is a Wordsworth-derived stanza.

*I wandered like a care-linked cloud
That floats on high o'er
height-caused hills
When all at once I saw a crowd
Of bulb-connected
daffodils.
Dancing 'neath the
branch-formed trees
In time with the waltz-
tempoed breeze.*

If the scientists and
medics still think that there

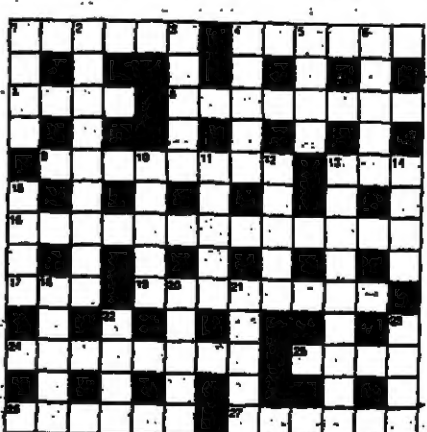
is a place for this construction in scientific language, I offer another version.

*I roamed in cloud-related
gloom
Through lake-associated
hills*

*When all at once I caught
a rheum,
A nasty go of damp-linked
chills,
Beside the accord-started
trees
I shivered in the wind-
caused breeze.
Gentlemen, my case rests.
I adopt a coypu-opposed
position.*

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 343)

ACROSS
1 Wartime French resistance (6)
4 Advocate persistently (6)
7 Heavy shower (4)
8 Apostate (8)
9 Spotted horse (8)
13 Seek plaintively (3)
16 Night of January 20 (5,3,3)
17 Subscription (3)
19 Close view position (8)
24 Flying surface (8)
25 Quick snack (4)
26 Me (6)
27 Bullfighter (6)



DOWN
1 Spanish surrealist (4)
2 Calcium oxide (9)
3 Bush (3)
4 TV game team (5)
5 Venetian magistrate (4)
6 Soup server (5)
10 Sprinkle (5)

11 Bulb gas (5)
12 Costume (5)
13 Substantive level (9)
14 Merriment (4)
15 American air force (1,1,1,1)
18 All (3)
20 Pocketed cue ball (2,3)
21 Waistcoat bodice (5)
22 Small rodent (4)
23 Nil (4)

SOLUTION TO No 342
ACROSS: 1 Amuse 2 Lump 3 Elder 4 Strep 5 Halo 6 Paternalism 7 Over 8 Pentagon 9 Terminate 10 Bayon 11 Sinus 12 Trauma
DOWN: 2 Medor 3 Sir 4 Disengagement 5 Loin 6 Mordant 7 Beansprout 8 Proscenium 9 Turf 10 Silt 11 Theorem 12 Geyser 13 Wing 22 Bra

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THE BODLEY HEAD

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Ten years after covering the pit strike that brought down the Tory Government, Caroline Moorehead returns to the Midlands coalfields to meet the wives of miners embroiled in another bitter dispute

Villages with hatred in their midst

Mary Barton belongs to a Midlands family of seven sisters and sisters-in-law whose miner husbands are on strike. She lives in Duckmanton, a tidy, prosperous-looking red brick village in north Derbyshire where the pits have been closed since March 13. Her sister-in-law, Susan, lives 12 miles away in Nottinghamshire coal board territory. Susan's husband's pit, Bolsover, is still open but most of the men are on strike, her husband among them.

The Bartons are a close and strong family and the women are extraordinarily united. "We know now just what it would be like if the pits closed," it would be like it is now: debts, children a bit hungry, all of us rather cold. But people don't realize: the pit is the living for these villages. There is nothing else. What's going to happen to our lads? Me and my kids will eat grass before we give in.

Ten years ago, in the middle of the 1974 miners' strike, I drove round these same villages, talking to wives. It was the same time of year, still rather cold; the women were at home rationing their coal in small fires. But it was different then. There was substantial public support for men seen to be battling for a decent reward for an unpleasant and dangerous job and the women believed it was really a question of hanging on.

Now they seem apprehensive, hostile. More than that, the women themselves have changed, and they are proud of it. In 1974, we still felt our place was really in the kitchen," said Mary Barton, a round faced, smiling woman who has lived through three strikes, first as miner's daughter, supporting eight people on her wages, now as a mother with children. "Now we're taking action for ourselves. It's got through to us: we have to fight too."

This spirit has inspired the setting up of women's action groups in virtually every colliery village in the area, groups of the more organized and outspoken wives who meet in church halls or Labour clubs to make up food parcels for the needy, to prepare leaflets on benefits and rights and to visit other wives at home. Betty Heathfield, one of the "main forces" behind the Chesterfield action group said: "The day we started it hit us like a bomb. Everywhere we went we found women desperate about their social security, about debts they couldn't pay, and furious about 'Tebbit's Law'. That's what got to them, the Government holding back £15 a week on the grounds that it's being paid in strike benefit, which of course it's not. They feel they're being attacked, and their kids are not going to eat."

The strike has not been easy

People, said the fishermen accusingly, are always coming in clutching recipes for fish which is out of season. Surely the cuttings were old and the customers had simply not realized, I parried, gamely, but perhaps unwisely in defence of all writers of recipes.

Not a bit of it, said the fishmonger, lowering his voice confidentially. Publications which should know better got their seasons wrong.

Come, come. Scallops are in their prime just now, said I with a meaningfully dismissive glance at his scallop-free plate. Why yes, they are at their best, and there had been plenty last week, confessed the fishmonger. But this week had been too cold for scallops. The divers will not go down for them when it is too cold, you know. What about frozen scallops? He had them frozen.

Ingredients should pose no

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THE ITALIAN INDEPENDENT

From Tuesday 22nd May - Saturday 26th May there will be a demonstration of the traditional method of hand-marbling paper. Customers will receive free examples. 11 Brompton Arcade, London, SW3 Tel: 01-589 1668

on families. Everywhere there are stories of hardship and great fear about the future. There is the young woman who ordered a £196 gravestone for her dead baby and was harassed by the firm who carved it to pay her bill; there is the family where husband, wife and son all work for the National Coal Board and, as all three are striking, not one is entitled to any money.

Jennifer Harris is 27 and the mother of five-year-old twin girls. She lives in a well-cared for house in Mastin Moor, just inside the north Derbyshire border. Her husband, Steve, an NCB fitter, has been on strike since March. "We're lucky. I have £25 a week coming in doing part-time work in a hairdresser's," she said. "But the woman who runs it is all against the strike and though I keep quiet, I keep thinking I may lose it. Then we've got some money saved up from when Steve lost a bit of a finger in the mine."

The Harris's savings have almost all gone. Since Jennifer is working, they get 29 pence a week in social security and £13 family allowances for the twins. They pay £60 a month mortgage for the house and £100 for a car which will take another two years to pay off. A further £30 a month goes towards the television.

"Our freezer is bare, Jennifer said. I now do the washing just once a week. I haven't got to the supermarket in case I see things and can't resist them. We eat bacon bits and the eternal baked beans. What happens when our savings go? When the car insurance comes up?"

Last week, after a stormy debate, Labour controlled Chesterfield council allocated £50,000 towards the poorest miners' families. Afterwards some of the women explained why they needed it so badly. Sara Collins is in her early thirties, a small, tense woman. She has three sons aged 13, 11 and eight. "We used to get about £90 a week when my husband was working. Now we get about £35 in all," she said. "But the girls always arrive late, so you can't count on anything. My boys now get one meat a day: sausages, if they're lucky, and Smash - proper potatoes are too expensive. No fresh vegetables. No biscuits. One pint of milk a day. We

Weekly budget for a typical miner's family with non-working wife		
	On strike	Working
Income and benefits	£36.55	£123.00
Expenditure		
Mortgage and hire purchase	£5.66	£41.66
Energy	£7.50	£16.00
Food	£23.50	£43.85
Entertainment	-	£29.00
	£36.66	£130.51

*Some payments frozen

THE TIMES COOK

Shona Crawford Poole

Timely scallops

Scallop problems. The large, uncooked scallops called for in the second recipe are almost certain to have been frozen and they will ideally weigh about 85g (3oz) each without their heads.

Fresh ginger can be found in many supermarkets and green grocers as well as in Indian, Chinese and other oriental foodshops. Straw mushrooms are a Chinese variety sold in tins for which small, tightly shut button mushrooms could be substituted. Dry sherry can stand in for rice wine, and Parma ham for the more authentic Yunnan ham.

Sautéed scallops with asparagus Serves two to three
6 fresh scallops (only the cushions are used in Hongkong)
1 teaspoon cornflour
1 egg white
1 tablespoon water
12 fresh asparagus spears
1 medium carrot
3 small slices fresh ginger
8 straw mushrooms
Peanut oil for frying

For the thickening
1/2 teaspoon cornflour
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon rice wine
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon monosodium glutamate (optional)

Slice the white scallop cushions into medallions about 1 cm (scant 1/2 inch) thick. To improve their flavour and texture soak them for about two hours in a batter made from the cornflour, egg white and water. Just before cooking them wash this off.

Remove any tough lower parts of the asparagus stalks. Cutting the stalks on the extreme diagonal, slice them into short lengths.

Cut the carrot into neat slices or use canapé cutters to produce fancier shapes. Shape the ginger slices or leave them plain. Halve the mushrooms. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a wok or frying pan and stir-fry the vegetables all at once until they are very lightly cooked indeed. Not more than half-cooked and preferably slightly less. Drain and keep them warm.

Poach the scallops briefly in simmering water until they are lightly cooked. Drain them.

Combine the scallops and vegetables in an oiled wok. Combine the thickening ingredients and mix well. Return the vegetables to the wok. Add the scallops and drizzle over the thickening mixture. Toss once or twice over a high heat and serve immediately.

Steamed prawns Serves two to three
6 large, raw prawns
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon monosodium glutamate (optional)
1/2 teaspoon cornflour
1 tablespoon peanut oil

6 matchstick strips of Yunnan or Parma ham
6 matchstick strips of carrot
6 longer, slightly thicker strips of a stalk vegetable (asparagus, broccoli, etc.)
Oil for deep-frying

share Sunday dinner with a neighbour to save electricity. Jane Greenham has only one child, a five-year-old boy. She also has three large dogs - a collie, spaniel and retriever. "A bag of dried dog food costs £7.50. That lasts three weeks. I'm overdrawn £150 and that's been stopped. The dogs will have to go. I've had to borrow school shoes for my boy. There's no doubt about it: Thatcher is trying to starve us out."

The Chesterfield Women's Action group directs its fury against the non-striking Nottinghamshire miners whose backing they insist could have brought the strike to an end weeks ago. They talk about their visits to the picket lines with a kind of comradely excitement, rather as if they were inside a war zone.

No woman has yet been arrested, but there will definitely be more women picketing, they say. Possibly the saddest spectacle in the mining villages is not the hardship, which with summer coming is not so apparent, but the growing fractures within village communities.

In Nottinghamshire, relations between opposing families are bad - and getting worse. Those in the minority, be they strikers or workers, are becoming targets of abuse, threats, ostracism, and even sporadic violence. The women are not always served in shops; window panes are smashed; cars stoned. Police sometimes accompany men home as protection. In one

Edith (also a false name) lives in a corner house two streets away. She is a wiry, cheerful woman with an immaculately tidy house. Boy George is playing on the hi-fi. She is also very defiant. Her husband has never come out on strike. "I don't feel a bit guilty - why should I?" she said. "The pits are open, the men can work. I think if you let it bother you, you're lost. I wouldn't tell my husband if I was threatened. He'd come out on strike. But personally I'm dead against it. I think they ought to bring the troops in."

She finds it strange that not one of her five sisters, all married to miners on strike, and all of whom own cars, have been to see her.

This bitterness will not end with the strike. Several women

For the thickening
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon monosodium glutamate (optional)
1/2 teaspoon cornflour
1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
1 tablespoon hot water

Steamed prawns with Yunnan ham and vegetables are not in fact steamed at all. They are briefly boiled and even more briefly deep-fried. They are very pretty and absolutely delicious.

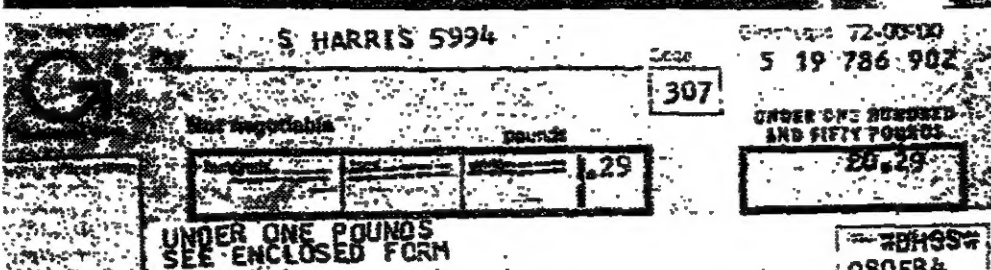
Remove the heads and legs of the prawns, and the shells down to the last tail segment. Using a sharp knife slit each prawn down the back just over half way through its thickness. Remove the vein of gut. Slit the flesh once again, but less deeply, on either side of the first cut. This helps the flesh to cook evenly and the prawns to curl prettily.

Combine the salt, sugar, MSG, cornflour and oil and mix well. Combine the prawns with this paste, using your fingers to coat them on all sides.

Blanch the vegetables in boiling water. Roll one prawn round a piece of each of the stuffing ingredients, and secure the pinwheel of fish with a toothpick. Drop the prawns into fast boiling water to which 1 tablespoon of oil has been added. Cook them covered, until they are very lightly done. Drain and keep them warm.

Heat enough oil to deep-fry the prawns in a wok or saucepan and when it is very hot, plunge in the prawns for literally only one or two seconds. Drain them immediately, and keep warm.

Combine the thickening ingredients and mix them well. Add the prawns to the heated oiled wok and drizzle the thickening over them. Toss together once or twice and serve immediately.



Top: the Harris family. "Our freezer is bare. We eat bacon bits and the eternal baked beans". Above: Steve Harris's weekly social security cheque for 29 pence.

Patricia Clough on the anguish facing every parent whose child has vanished without a trace

Until you know for certain

For John Tate, the anguish of the parents of the three north London children abducted this week is all too familiar. His own nightmare began one summer's day six years ago when he saw two girls coming down the garden path wheeling his daughter's bicycle. It had been found by the side of the road, they said. His daughter had vanished.

It was more than two and a half years before John Tate was able to think rationally and face up to the possibility that his daughter Genette - 13 when she vanished - was probably dead. It was even longer before he could speak of her disappearance without breaking down.

After nearly six years and a conversion to Christianity, he can now cope. But until he knows for certain what happened to Genette, the not knowing whether to hope or mourn will never really end. Asked what was worse, to have your child die or not know her fate, he replies, quite simply, "not to know."

Each year thousands of parents in Britain go through the appalling experience of John Tate and now the parents of Denise Boezalt, Emma Bishop and Ian Ward. For most, although it may seem an eternity, the suffering is mercifully short. Usually missing children turn up safe and well within weeks, often within days. Most are traced within two weeks.

For fewer than a dozen families, however, the anguish goes on for months, even years. Some never learn what happened. No one knows how many children in Britain disappear each year, but, curiously, no one bothers to count. But Scotland Yard deals with some 3,000 cases - young Londoners or children from the provinces



John Tate: appealing to runaways to let their parents know where they are

believed to have headed for London.

Most missing children run away of their own accord. There are many reasons - a row with their parents, failure at school, unhappiness, the attraction of a pop group. Below the age of 14, boys are the more adventurous. Scotland Yard is asked to look for around 300 a year and only 200 girls. But between the ages of 14 and 18, the 1982 figure was 1,600 girls and 1,250 boys.

John Pope, who heads Scotland Yard's Missing Persons' Bureau, says the reasons for this reversal can only be guessed at: earlier maturity, possibly; resentment against parental control, which tends to be tighter over girls; a small but significant minority of immigrant girls rebelling against arranged marriages.

Given the suffering, not to mention the trouble, caused by the disappearance of children it seems strange that more is not done to prevent it. Mr Tate had this partly in mind when he set up an organization called International Find a Child.

The police, too, have often wondered whether to set up a national organization but have always concluded that the present inter-force cooperation is sufficient.

All that can be done, Mr Tate and Mr Pope agree, is to try to bring home important advice to parents.

There is no way, they say, that a secretly deranged person

can be stopped from seeking to abduct children. But children must be alerted of the dangers of speaking to strangers.

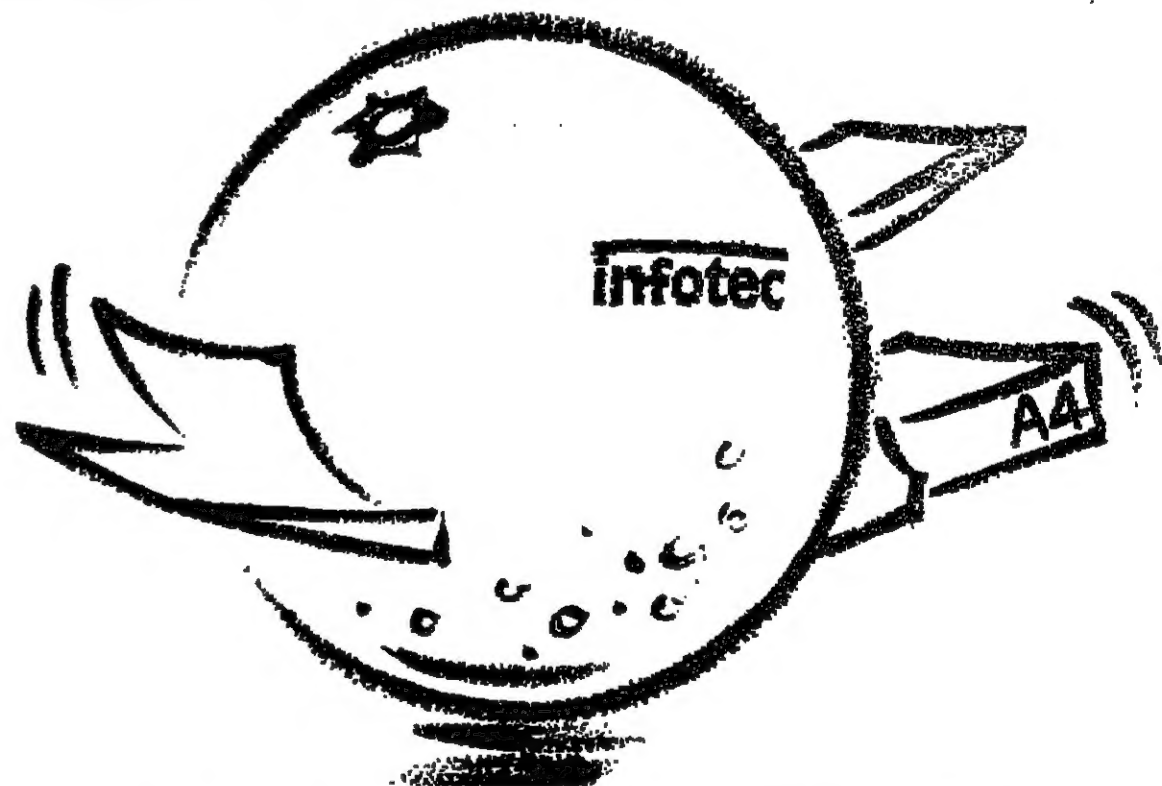
"It is not enough to warn them about not accepting sweets," says Mr Pope.

The Home Office has issued a bookmark for children with a drawing of the wolf in Red Riding Hood's grandmother's clothing on one side and advice on the other. Always play with friends, it says, never alone. Never get into a stranger's car. Always tell your mum and dad where you will be. If ever you are frightened ask an adult lady for help, or go to a policeman.

Both men insist that it is necessary to exert parental authority. Make sure you know where your child is, and with whom. Fix a time for him or her to be home. Parents should always make a mental note of what their children are wearing, and the amount of money they have with them. "Don't be a friend, be a parent," says Mr Tate.

If a child disappears, the search is assisted by a recent photograph. Mr Tate is campaigning for schools to take annual photographs of their pupils.

He is also appealing to runaways - in cards being distributed to long distance lorry drivers to get in touch with their families. "No need to say where you are, just let your family know how you are."



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THE TIMES DIARY

From war to peace

Count Nikolai Tolstoy yesterday offered the hospitality of his home at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, to two Russian soldiers, believed to be the first defectors from Afghanistan, who are expected to arrive in London within the next month or so. Igor Rykov, aged 21, and Oleg Khlan, aged 20, whose identities are disclosed here for the first time, crossed into Pakistan, and from



Khlan and Rykov: first of many?

there appealed to the count in his new role as president of Spare - the Soviet Prisoners Afghan Rescue Committee. He is confident that their request for political asylum in Britain will be granted. Yesterday Count Tolstoy told me that more defectors would follow, "but I don't say too much in case it infringes our agreement with the Red Cross". Rykov and Khlan should not be alarmed if they spot one of the count's visiting cards on his hall table. Printed on the reverse of his Abingdon address are the addresses of the Moscow flat and country dacha from which the revolutionaries ejected the Tolstoy in 1917 - "just to prove", he says, "that our exile from Russia is only temporary".

Evans above

We shall never know if MPs are liars or not. Tory MP Peter Thurnham, who, I reported last week, was due to be wired up to a lie detector by the House of Commons committee on employment, has been rescued from his ordeal. The committee, which is investigating the use of the polygraph, to vet GCHQ staff, felt politicians were "just not right" for such a test. So who is? Journalists, they say. And from *The Times*, my parliamentary colleague Richard Evans undergoes the test at 4.30 p.m. today. El Vino veritas?

● Hongkong is taking characteristic precautions as it contemplates reincorporation in China. In a book advertisement in the Hongkong-based *Asia Magazine*, one line is marked out of stock: *Your New Swiss Bank Book*.

Lost resort

Hoteliers in Tenby may well spend the first week of July sending Arthur Scargill hundreds of holiday postcards bearing the message "Wish you were here". Not because they love him; far from it. He has just landed them with a potential £75,000 loss of bookings in that period, as a result of the National Union of Mineworkers' decision this week to cancel its annual conference at the South Wales resort. Scargill has apparently decided to axe the event to save money. I hope the sun shines; if the rooms are left empty, hoteliers are threatening court claims for at least £50,000 damages.

BARRY FANTONI



A tartan shirt and pink jeans are hardly my idea of plain clothes

Kettle-black

Rudi Narayan, the lawyer and black rights campaigner, says some harsh things about Britain's blacks in the *Jamaican Weekly Gleaner*. In an article accusing them of laziness, poor timekeeping, failing to plan, and not believing in "black excellence", he writes: "Although there are many intellectuals about the community, few wish to be associated with their fellow blacks. This arrogance applies particularly to black lawyers." Narayan should know; before being fined £100 at Camberwell last September for refusing to take a breath test, the magistrate heard evidence that he told police they were not dealing with some "stupid local nigger", and said to the arresting officer, "Hawkins, you're finished. You've gone, boy. I won't rest until I see you destroyed. Do you know how brilliant I am?"

Lotta bottle

Two Welsh farmers' wives, Thelma Adams and Ena George, will be "floating" through Carmarthen today, hauled by a tractor and trailer in protest about the new EEC-inspired milk quotas. Decorously clad in bikinis, and calling themselves Clocpatra 84, they will recline in old cow troughs filled, not with asses' milk, but 100 gallons of cows' milk. "It's cheaper than water", Thelma says.

PHS

Tom Bower on the Nazi war criminal who cheated justice to the end

Rauff: the great escape



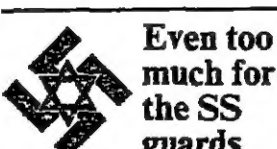
One of the few pictures of Rauff from his later years. It was taken by a cameraman for the Granada Television programme *World in Action* who waited a month for him to leave the security of his Santiago home to go for a walk

complained that despite the zealous dedication of his troops, the daily task of mass shootings was taking a toll on the executioners. Berlin headquarters, and in particular Rauff, were expected to produce a solution. "The most important consideration for me," recollected Rauff, "was that the shootings were a terrible ordeal for the men concerned, which could be relieved by using a gas lorry."

The first victims of Nazi gassing were German inmates of mental institutions, gassed in trucks with industrially manufactured pure carbon monoxide released from steel bottles stored in the driver's compartment. It was the simultaneous arrival on Rauff's desk of the death squads' complaints and his technicians' suggestions of ways to develop the mobile gas chambers that stimulated Rauff's imagination. The energy with which he sought to solve the problem is proved with terrifying accuracy by the survival of his own file, discovered in Berlin at the end of the war.

Letters between Rauff and his mechanic discussing the technical problems of diverting carbon monoxide fumes from the engine exhaust into the truck's container, and his impatient negotiations with a Berlin chassis builder, are ample proof of his calculated commitment to the creation of a crude yet innovative murder machine.

The first passengers of the modified death trucks were 40 Russians, inmates of the nearby Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Driven for 15 minutes to the camp's crematorium, their gassing on route was deemed in a report to Rauff to be a satisfactory confirmation of his work. Rauff immediately ordered 30 trucks and in October 1941 sent the first five eastwards. Their operation was personally supervised from Berlin by their creator.



Even too much for the SS guards

Rauff needed little imagination to understand the implications of his work. Whole families would be sealed in a lorry and driven to a pit for burial. As the lorry fumes slowly filled the container, there would inevitably be hysterical, frantic sounds from within.

After three months, Dr August Becker, a pioneer of the euthanasia programme particularly admired by Himmler, was ordered by Rauff to inspect operations. Within weeks he sent back to Rauff a series of extraordinary reports.

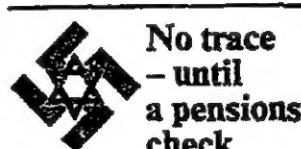
As with all technical innovations, Becker wrote, the SS operators were being hampered by a series of unfortunate teething problems. Unloading the van after the gassing was taking too long, as many of the lorries, driven haphazardly across rough country tracks, were no longer airtight. The gas pipes were rusting. The victims' faces were "horribly distorted"; bodies - described in one memorandum as "the cargo" - were covered with excrement and vomit. Moreover, reported Becker, despite fixing wooden window shutters on the sides, the lorries had already been dubbed by the locals "death trucks". Embarrassingly, Rauff was told that the SS squads, complaining of headaches, wanted to return to

priests, the so-called "Vatican route". He was following a pattern established the previous July when about 40 Germans, half of them former SS officers, had escaped from Rimini and headed for Rome.

Hidden in a monastery for 18 months, Rauff taught orphans French and maths while a network of priests contacted his wife and two sons in eastern Germany and smuggled them into Italy. Soon after the reunion, the family were given fraudulent Red Cross passports using the name Rauff and sailed for Syria in the summer of 1948. Rauff, like many other SS officers, had been offered a job training the Syrian army; and, like most of the others, he was forced to flee when Israeli agents began hunting them down. In 1949 the family settled in Ecuador.

Rauff, who was still a German citizen, obtained in June 1953 a German passport under his own name from the embassy in Quito, and became a travelling representative for a German manufacturer. Lulled into security, he wrote in 1955 to the Finance Ministry in Düsseldorf applying for his pension as a former naval officer. There was no mention of his SS career. In retrospect it seems an astonishingly brazen act, but it reflected accurately the complete indifference to Nazi crimes throughout Western Europe after 1947. The survivors of the war were preoccupied with rebuilding their shattered continent.

In 1958, the family moved south to Chile, where they were warmly welcomed by the long established and nationalistic German community. Newly prosperous and relaxed, he returned to Germany twice in the next four years confident that the past was forgotten.



No trace - until a pensions check

But the kidnap and trial in Jerusalem of Adolf Eichmann and the trial of former Auschwitz guards in Ulm, West Germany, rapidly changed that atmosphere. Bonn was accused by its neighbours of harbouring Nazi war criminals. Pressure was applied to redeem the Allies' post-war failures.

In fact, West German investigators had already rediscovered in 1960 Rauff's file concerning the gas trucks. A former subordinate had already been arrested in Germany and charged with murder. Rauff, however, seemed to have disappeared, until the investigators thought of checking through pension claimants' files. His audacity in 1955 could have been his undoing. In 1963 Bonn asked the Chilean government for his arrest and extradition. Rauff seemed very vulnerable. He was still a German citizen and had apparently no influential links with the Chilean government or politicians.

Bonn's application to the Chilean Supreme Court was supported by irrefutable documentary evidence. With little alternative, Rauff admitted partial responsibility, but defended himself on three counts. First, "I would have been executed if I failed to obey my orders"; second, that he was a mere, "technical administrator"; and third, that although he provided the trucks, "I did not know whether these trucks were used to kill Jews or criminals". They were, pleaded Rauff, judicial killings.

At the first hearing, the court ordered Rauff's deportation, but on appeal it declared that although he was obviously a criminal, his deportation was barred by the Chilean 15-year statute of limitation - a position which every Chilean government has adhered to ever since. Nothing more was done until recent pressure by Simon Wiesenthal and the Karsfelds forced the West German government to ask for Rauff's expulsion as a political act. Quoting the court's decision, the Pinochet government steadfastly refused, although it regularly expels its own Chilean critics.

Rauff's funeral will not quite close the final chapter of fugitive Nazis and their hunters. There remains one unquiet ghost: the infamous Josef Mengele, the "doctor" of Auschwitz, notorious for his "scientific experiments" on twins. In 1960 he disappeared from Argentina. Ten years later he was traced to Paraguay, but never seen. Protected by private wealth, he will remain a phantom until his death is mysteriously announced. In contrast, Rauff died as he had lived: in utter and open contempt of his victims and of those who pay lip service to justice.

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Tom Bower is the author of *Klaus Barbie, Butcher of Lyons* (Michael Joseph).



Rauff in SS uniform in 1943, and one of the lorries which he turned into mobile gas chambers. Right, the family man taking it easy in Chile in the early days of exile before demands grew for his extradition

Robin Cook

A plague on those rabbits

The unemployment benefit office in my constituency is located in the main shopping centre. It is perhaps as well for the neighbouring stores that it is not in competition with their stock as it has one of the most brisk trades, based on the captive market of the one-fifth of the local population who are out of work.

In the past few months the Department of Employment has pioneered its very own flying squad to go on circuit around such offices. Their task, which I would have thought gratuitous in present circumstances, is to ascertain whether the registered unemployed are really out of work.

This goes by the title of Regional Benefit Investigation Team, which has resulted in the members being dubbed Rabbits within the Department of Employment, whose unions have denounced their introduction. Their sobriquet does less than justice to their mission and something of an injustice to the retiring disposition of the rabbit. Ferrets might be a more appropriate guide to the job they do.

Two points may be entered in mitigation. The first is that the rabbit squads operate under rather more civilized rules of engagement than the parallel Special Claims Control Unit in the DHSS. The second is that there can be no grounds for objection to the unmasking of those who commit criminal fraud by wrongfully claiming benefit and bringing them to book in the courts.

However the prosecution of fraud is not the objective which the Department of Employment has set its visitors. In the first quarter of this year no prosecution had been brought before the courts as a result of their investigations. What they had left was a marked effect on the communities whom they had visited on circuit. More than 900 claimants on emerging from their interrogation had given up claiming benefit.

The department's instruction to its teams is quite precise: the aim is not to detect fraud but to discourage the claiming of benefit. Let us examine the master text. "The techniques require not so much the dogged pursuit of evidence but a lightness of touch in being able to confront claimants with a few suspicious facts which will lead the suspect either to declare work or otherwise leave the register."

As a student of literature I'm impressed at how carefully this passage has been crafted. Mark the subtle elision by which "claimants"

become "the suspect". Observe the balanced antithesis by which the methodical assembly of a case is written down as "dogged", while the free play of suspicion is elevated as "lightness of touch". Note, though, the author is precise and candid on one point. The object of the exercise is to persuade claimants - or "suspects" - to leave the register, even though the interview may have failed to establish that the claimant is at work and drawing benefit fraudulently.

What is the rationale for this modern inquisition? It cannot be the impact on the awesome numbers of the unemployed. In the past five years the Department of Employment has demonstrated such a fecund imagination in spawning ingenious devices for massaging the unemployment statistics that it would surely scorn such a tedious and prolonged means of knocking more hundreds off the total.

Nor can they be doing it for the money. Moving civil servants round the country is an expensive undertaking, and an active rabbit can consume more in a day's subsistence allowance than many claimants draw in weekly benefit. Vastly greater returns on investment could be secured by turning out an equivalent number of civil servants to graze on the much more lush fields of tax evasion.

No. The manspining of this inquisition must be psychological. It transfers the moral blame for unemployment from the Government to the unemployed. The working population is encouraged to suspect the masses drawing benefit as harbouring, amid the hapless victims of economic forces, some entrepreneurs working the system. And to serve this end several thousand unemployed have already been put through the mill of an interview at which they appeared not as victim but as suspect.

No previous government has felt the need for such special measures, not even in the 1950s when notified vacancies exceeded the registered unemployed. What makes their introduction now particularly offensive is that it coincides with record levels of unemployment and when an advertised vacancy can lead to hundreds - if not thousands of desperate applications. Having provided over this remorseless growth in the unemployed, the least the Government can do is spare them the final indignity of a demand to prove that they are out of work.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Mark Steyn



Mayor Feinstein, determined to stick with Tony Bennett. Opponents favour a 1936 number popularized by Jeanette MacDonald (right)

In every disco they row about Frisco

Songwriters have often plundered the atlas for inspiration, and not surprisingly their efforts are not always admired by the residents of the places they are serenading. It's a safe bet, for example, that the many fans of "I'll Si-Si Ya In Bahia" and "I'd Like To See Some Mo' O' Samoa" don't include the locals. But nobody realized just how much trouble one innocuous pop song could cause until the "Song War" broke out at San Francisco's City Hall.

"I Left My Heart In San Francisco", the Douglas Cross/George Cory ballad made famous by Tony Bennett, has been the city's official song since 1969, a fact of which most of the citizenry was blissfully ignorant until it was brought to their attention by Warren Hinckley of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. With the Democratic Party convention coming to town this summer, he felt that it was about time the city ended its association with a soppy love song which, he claims, reflects the mayor's "drip-drip, plastic" view of what the city should be.

The mayor, Diane Feinstein, a great fan of the ballad, was not amused. Her argument is simple: wherever she travels around the world, people know the song and associate it with the city. That's just the problem, according to her political rival, Quentin Kopp. "It's a tourist song," he told me. "It appeals to visitors from Britain."

Critics put the ballad in the same category as "You Can't Say No In Acapulco" or our own Jimmy Kennedy's "Isle Of Capri", which says nothing about the island except that it's a good place to go to have a quickie affair with a married woman. As a local disco-jockey exclaimed: "It's like London being represented by 'A Foggy Day' (in London Town)."

Others point out the absurdities of the opening verse, whose put-downs of Paris and New York even the most jingoistic San Franciscans find hard to swallow. Their mind the assertion that "the glory that was Rome is of another day" (which sounds like a Latin translation). And anybody who longs "to be where the little cable-cars climb halfway to the stars" is taking a more romantic view of the public transport system than most citizens. It's also impossible for large numbers of people to sing the song unless they happen to be melancholic drunks.

Mr Kopp, who thinks it's nonsense to have a love ballad as official song, has now introduced an amendment to the relevant ordinance which would kick out the sentimental dirge once and for all. But perhaps the biggest shock came in the *San Francisco Chronicle* poll of 34,000 people, more than 70 per cent voted against the song, a chilling statistic for the hundreds of performers who have long regarded it as a compulsory repertoire to their act. The archetypal "it's-a-pleasure-to-be-back-in-your-wonderful-city" song has been dealt a severe blow.

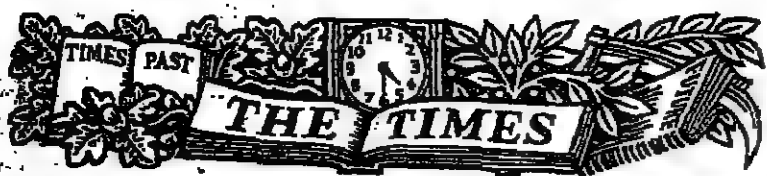
Of the many alternatives, Quentin Kopp and his supporters have plumped for a song called simply "San Francisco", the Bronislau Kaper/Walter Jurmann/Gus Kahn up-tempo number introduced by Jeanette MacDonald in a 1936 "disaster musical" about the city's famous earthquake. "It's much more expressive of the city," says Mr Kopp. "It's rousing, gutsy, robust, not sweet and saccharine like 'I Left My Heart'." The Mayor's more sexist opponents dismiss her choice as a cloying, simpering girl's song compared with their thumping rough and tumble locker-room singalong.

"San Francisco, open your Golden Gate!" roar the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus with tremendous gusto, but Mayor Feinstein remains unmoved, alleging that the song is hardly known outside the United States. "Well, I've heard it sung in Germany," retorts Mr Kopp.

The mayor's vice-presidential ambitions have been well publicized in recent months, and political observers believe that it would be embarrassing for her if Messrs Mondale, Hart and Jackson arrived in town to the strains of "San Francisco" instead of "I Left My Heart". Mr Kopp's amendment was debated by the legislative body last Monday and will receive a second reading on May 21, but, if it passes, the determined mayor has threatened to use her power of veto.

One mooted solution to the "Song War" is a compromise whereby both numbers would be official songs. In the same way, that north of the border Canada has "God Save The Queen" and "O Canada". This doesn't impress Quentin Kopp. "Having two songs is as ridiculous as having two wives or two husbands or even," he added mischievously, "two mayors."

bin Cook
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bbits



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DIPLOMATS ON PROBATION

The impotence of the police and apparatus of justice in the face of the murder in St James's Square on April 17 is deeply resented. The source of their impotence is the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) which Britain has ratified and incorporated in its domestic law by the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964. The effect of these instruments is, with minor exceptions, to grant immunity, amounting to immunity, verging on sacrosanctity, to the persons and premises of accredited foreign diplomatic missions.

There have been calls for amendment of the convention, a review of its provisions by the Government is still in progress, and today the House of Lords debates it. The Vienna convention, it is pointed out, antedates the use of diplomatic cover for terrorism as an instrument of state policy. Is it not time to modify the convention to take account of the lapse into barbarity?

The Vienna convention and 1964 Act, though they now embody these immunities did not import them into English law for the first time. The legislation in fact introduced a significant limitation of the reach of diplomatic immunity under English law by grading the members of foreign missions. An Act from the reign of Queen Anne, still then in force, pronounced violator of the laws of nations and disturber of public peace (and punishable as such) anyone implicated in serving a writ or process against an ambassador or other envoy or his domestic servants. The origins of that statute, which was declaratory of the law, is explained in its preamble. Several turbulent and disorderly persons had insulted the ambassador extraordinary of his czarist majesty by taking him from his coach and arresting him for debt. The Act affirmed that diplomatic agents were out of reach of the civil law.

That they were also out of reach of the criminal law is attested by the treatment of Spanish and French ambassadors who conspired against the lives of the first Queen Elizabeth

and later of Cromwell and were merely sent home, at a time when conduct of that kind led straight to the block.

An immunity that has endured so long and through such changed conditions is likely to possess a high utility. Its essence is reciprocity which underlies the whole edifice of the convention - you grant immunity to the agents of other states, and suffer the inconvenience, in order that your agents abroad may receive the same immunity from them, a convenience you find indispensable.

The effectiveness of the immunity is closely related to its totality. When the Vienna convention was being debated in draft form it was proposed to qualify the inviolability of diplomatic premises by giving the receiving state a power of entry in an extreme emergency to safeguard the security of the state, or to save life and property in exceptional conditions of public danger. Foremost among the objectors was the British member of the United Nations commission: if these were recognized as reasons for suspending immunity there was no knowing what interpretation weak or malevolent regimes would put on them or what fabrications they would employ. The force of that objection remains.

Even if it were now thought that the balance of advantage for Britain has changed and that we should be seeking restriction of immunity, amendment would be a long and difficult process. The convention, to which 141 nations now adhere, took more than ten years to fashion. Sir Geoffrey Howe this week found more enthusiasm among the foreign ministers of the European Community for concerted anti-terrorist measures than for amendment of the Vienna convention. While we are more concerned just now in Britain with the lawful conduct of foreign missions, many other countries are more concerned about the protection of their embassies abroad from official or unofficial molestation.

This is not to say that nothing can be done. Abuse of the privileged status of the diplomatic bag is one area in which

there might be enough agreement to get movement, especially as the exact force of the convention's provisions are disputed as regards scanning. The matter is on the agenda of the International Law Commission now in session for three months. But most of what ought to be done will have to be done outside the framework of diplomatic immunity.

An authoritative pronouncement would be welcome, after the St James's Square experience, to the effect that the Government does not regard the right of ultimate self defence found in common law and international law as being extinguished by the Vienna convention or the legislation consequent upon it; nor - in terms more appropriate to the fiction that diplomatic premises are an extension of the territory of the state whose representatives occupy it - is the right to react to aggressive hostilities extinguished.

Pre-Vienna international law allowed that a person with diplomatic immunity might be physically restrained if that was necessary for the immediate protection of the lives of others, and the same principle should apply in extremis to the forcible entry of premises. The situation at the Libyan mission came close to that, and would have reached it if the shooting had been continued or repeated. But after such physical restraint expulsion, not criminal indictment, follows.

The other line to counter terrorism cloaked by privilege is to make more, and more discriminating, use of the powers already possessed to control the establishment and size of particular diplomatic missions, to object to the posting here of suspect individuals, and to require the removal of any believed to be abusing their status. The fact that retaliation would probably follow at the other end must be accepted as a lesser evil.

When here all diplomats (all 5,000 of them, or 15,000 with their families) are beyond the reach of our laws. But they are here only by our leave.

HOMOSEXUALS AND THE POLICE

It was a small but significant sign of changing public attitudes towards homosexuality when an unexpected band of Tories came forward in the Commons on Monday to speak in support of an obviously doomed amendment that Mr Jim Wallace, a Liberal, had moved to the Police Bill. The amendment concerned the law that prohibits persistent soliciting in a public place, and the debate had gained an unforeseen topicality from the resignation a few hours earlier of Mr Keith Hampton as PPS to Mr Michael Heseltine. The amendment had no direct relevance to the affair, of course; Mr Hampton has as yet been charged with no offence in connection with events that occurred almost two weeks ago. But at a moment when in the past colleagues of a member with Defence Ministry connections arrested in a homosexual bar might all have been running for cover, several made a point of expressing concern about the way the police enforce this area of the law.

Prejudice, and the fear of it, are still strong enough for public reputations and private lives to be shattered over offences for which the courtroom penalty is

often only a small fine. Mere innuendo where charges are never brought can be almost as damaging. In response to MPs' concern, the Home Office promised a stronger restatement of the existing rule forbidding police to act as agents provocateurs in these (as in all other) cases.

This tacitly acknowledged widespread fears that the police are too ready today to act in this way. It is difficult to prove or disprove, however. It is a more subjective question whether provocation has occurred in a sexual encounter than in a plot to rob a bank, and depends on nuances of dress and behaviour difficult to assess afterwards in court. Mr Wallace would have eliminated all ambiguity, for his amendment would have allowed only uniformed officers to make arrests for importuning. But this would make it almost impossible for the police to act against behaviour which can be of real public offence, and even danger.

The case alleged against the police is not only that they lead people on, but also that they make too little allowance for time and place. Behaviour that might cause distress and offence in a public lavatory may well not be offensive in a specialist club.

But even in a club, not anything goes.

The police have to enforce the law as it exists, but they have a wide discretion as to how they deploy their resources in doing so. There is a suspicion that they sometimes prefer the easy target of homosexuals to more elusive though more formidable criminals. In the past, the police could count on general public approval for harassment of a despised minority. Today attitudes have changed at least enough to have created a widespread wish to see even homosexuals fairly treated.

It is more difficult now than it used to be for the police to retain the trust of a more diverse and more tolerant public. An opinion poll in *The Sunday Times* earlier this year found that almost a third of those replying would not trust the police to tell them the truth. They would actually distrust the "man in the street" slightly less. (It must be admitted that both were regarded as immeasurably more trustworthy than journalists.) It is increasingly true that the way the police treat sexual and racial minorities affects the trust in which they are held by the wider public. And so it should.

WEST AND SOUTH WEST

The failure to reach agreement after three days of Lusaka talks on Namibia was a setback but not a disaster. The fact that South Africa, the South West African People's Organization and the authorities in Namibia could be brought to the same table was in itself an achievement. There will be more talks, although there was no formal agreement even on this point in Lusaka. And in the meantime the peace-making process goes on: within weeks there will be no South African troops in Angola, for the first time since 1978, and the pressure will be on Angola to start sending some Cubans home. The fact of their departure would take the sting out of the argument about whether there should be "linkage" with Namibian independence.

In some ways it is healthy that the basic differences should thus be left unresolved but out in the open. The real quarrel is over whether independence should come to Namibia under Resolution 435 of the Security Council. Translated, this means there should be UN-supervised elections, which Swapo with its UN-backing would be sure to win, or whether some deal can be worked out that would keep the present multi-party Windhoek

power group in the picture and after the UN (deeply distrusted by South Africa because of its commitment to Swapo) onto the sidelines.

At Lusaka Swapo insisted on standing by Resolution 435 and this caused the ill-tempered breakup of the talks. There are some American sources who are prepared to argue that this was a good thing. The complicated deal sponsored by the Americans as leaders of the Western "Contact Group" and sold by dint of much hard work by American diplomats to Angola, South Africa, Swapo and the "frontline states" is based on Resolution 435. The Americans insist that it is still viable and that it could lead later this year to independence in Namibia and the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola (the bull point in their eyes). If the Lusaka negotiations (not sponsored by the Americans) had agreed to fudge the issue the whole edifice could have collapsed.

A more complicated analysis is based on the fact that power is delicately balanced within South Africa itself. Observers see Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, General Magnus Malan, the

Minister of Defence, and Mr "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, as the leading members of the group pushing the stick-and-carrot policy that has had such notable success in Mozambique and Angola. Another group of military men, led by generals in military intelligence, thought they were doing well with the sticks and are not keen on the carrots. A third group, involving Dr Willie van Niekerk, the Administrator General of Namibia, would like to see Namibia separated from all this world diplomacy and a regional settlement arrived at.

Dr van Niekerk and his friends lost at Lusaka but what is uncertain (as even optimistic Americans admit) is whether the Botha-Malan South Africans are as fully committed to the Western deal as they have led Washington to believe. Mrs Thatcher will be in an excellent position to find out what exactly are Mr P. W. Botha's intentions when the South African Prime Minister visits Britain on June 2. He needs to be convinced that the West is seriously united in its commitment to Resolution 435, before he is likely to risk a course which seems calculated to put Mr Sam Nujoma in power in Windhoek.

Setting limits on Libyan conflict

From Mr Mohamed-Yusuf Al Maghariaf

Sir, I have watched, at a distance, with mixed emotions of sadness, shame and admiration, the recent events outside the so-called Libyan People's Bureau in London.

We, as Libyans, have all been immeasurably saddened by the death of the young policeman and by the injuries done to innocent Libyan dissident demonstrators. We have been humiliated at this atrocity perpetrated by Libyan terrorists masquerading as diplomats. We have admired the calm and ultimately successful reaction of the British authorities whose tactics have, of course, been dictated by the threat posed to the British mission in Tripoli and to the British expatriate community in Libya.

The world will know by now that armed confrontation with the Gaddafi regime within Libya has begun - and, perhaps as a result of the terrorist action in London, the world (or at least the British people) will understand more fully why we have had no option but to resort to the use of force. There is no room for dialogue or compromise with a man who refuses to obey any rational, logical, or civilised norm.

However the news of armed conflict in Tripoli, following so soon on the events in London, may cause concern in Britain and elsewhere that the struggle for the future of Libya may well spill over into the streets of European and other foreign cities.

In spite of what may have been published elsewhere, I should like, through the courtesy of your columns, to give a firm undertaking that we will use force only against the regime and its agents inside Libya itself. In this regard your readers might like to note that while Gaddafi's murder squads were gunning down innocent protesters in London, we were about to take the battle to his own military headquarters in the heart of Tripoli.

It would be foolish, nonetheless, to ignore the fact that the threat to the regime intensifies so will Gaddafi hit out viciously and indiscriminately. He will attempt to internationalise the conflict. The London shootings are an example. So, too, is the bombing of Omdurman Radio in the Sudan in March, which again led to innocent casualties.

We do not expect or require countries like Britain to assist us in our efforts to topple the Gaddafi regime. We recognise that the responsibility for the removal of Gaddafi and the return of the rule of law to Libya rests entirely with the Libyan people. It is by Libyans alone that sacrifices should continue to be made if freedom and democracy are to be attained.

But we do urge democratic countries to review their existing political and commercial links with Libya and, in the light of recent experience (and our own often repeated warnings over the last two years) to observe closely and control wherever possible the activities of the so-called Libyan People's Bureaux in their capital cities.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMED-YUSUF AL MAGHARIAF, Secretary General, National Front for the Salvation of Libya, Postlager Karte 030319B, Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, May 10.

Ten Tors challenge

From Mrs Peter Douglas

Sir, Twenty-five years ago, Colonel Gregory inaugurated the Ten Tors expedition, an imaginative idea providing a challenge to many youngsters. Every year this expedition has started and finished at Okehampton, giving the local teams the benefit of more training and better knowledge of local conditions and weather.

Although the date of the actual expedition has been fixed to avoid disturbing the wildlife of the moor, there are parties of young people on the tors every weekend throughout the year, practising for the next expedition.

While not wishing to denigrate in any way the splendid idea of the expedition, would it not be possible for other, similar areas of the UK to take their turn? Why not Ten Peaks, Ten Fells, Ten Bens or Ten (?) Bryns? It would relieve the wildlife of the moor and the (less wild) local inhabitants, while benefiting those who have long journeys to the South-West.

Devon teams would gain in learning something of hills and wild places elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH W. DOUGLAS, Greywalls, 125 Station Road, Okehampton, Devon, May 10.

Watering with care

From Mr Andrew Semple

Sir, You suggest that whilst the present dry weather lasts gardeners should aim to apply two to four gallons of water to the square yard per week, in order to correct the soil moisture deficiency. ("In the garden," Saturday, May 12).

Such advice, if followed generally, could bring on widespread restrictions at a very early date, and in many places would simply be beyond the capacity of the system. A household garden of 200 square yards (a typical size in the South-west) would on this basis require something like 400 litres a day - roughly a doubling of normal household consumption; systems

Making good saleroom losses

From Lord Astor of Hever

Sir, Your issue of May 11 reported that a six-month export ban had been imposed on a painting by William Hogarth, which was sold by Viscount Parker at Christie's last March. The article also quoted Mr John Baskett, the London art dealer who bought the picture for a foreign client, as saying that the Treasury should shoulder responsibility for interest payments on the very large sum throughout that period.

I agree. On May 5 last year I sold at a Sotheby's auction a sixteenth-century suit of armour made for Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. The hammer price was £330,000.

Because the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Plymouth, considered this piece of armour to be of national importance, the Minister of the Arts was recommended to impose a three-month export ban from the date of auction. This was subsequently extended for a further period of six months until February 18, 1984, in order to give British public collections a second chance to raise sufficient money to match the hammer price.

Not until October - five months after the auction - was a public appeal launched by the Armouries who, it was well known, wanted to acquire the suit for the Tower of London.

The sum necessary to secure the armour for the nation was raised just within the deadline of February 18, 1984, but it did not receive any payment for it, either from the original purchaser or from the national Armouries, until April 16, ie, more than 11 months after the auction sale.

It is, of course, well known that the possible suspension of an export licence is one of the risks of selling a work of "national importance". But this delaying device to prevent sales efficiency - to give national institutions a chance of purchasing items at prices below those to which the bidding at auction might have run imposes intolerable inconvenience and unreasonable losses of interest.

If the nation wants to buy something which it considers to be of national importance, why should the nation not pay the proper market price, or at least provide balancing compensation to the vendor for this statutory penalization?

University costs

From Lord Flowers, FRS

Sir, David Walker referred in his article (May 8) to the work of the Jarratt committee on the efficiency of university management. It gives the impression that it will be an anodyne investigation into peripheral issues. This is to misrepresent the matter in three important respects.

First, it is a serious underestimation of Sir Alex Jarratt himself and the members of his committee - who include Sir Robin Ibb, the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency - to suggest that any exercise conducted by them could be anodyne.

Secondly, although the cost of administration in universities does account for less than 7 per cent of current spending, the purpose of it is to spend the remaining 93 per cent, and the object of the investigation is to scrutinize the administrative machinery by which this is carried out.

Thirdly, the Jarratt study is complemented by an intensive study under the auspices of the vice-chancellors' committee of universities methods of maintaining their own academic standards. The first phase of this has already been completed, taking the form of the publication of a code of practice for the work of external examiners. Further topics are likely to include the study of both external and internal review procedures regarding degree courses and assessing matters of curriculum, valuation, and accreditation by professional bodies.

I must make clear that the Jarratt study and the investigation into

Girls in boys' schools

From the Principal of Newcastle-under-Lyme School

Sir, The Rector of The Edinburgh Academy (April 27) justified the entry of girls to boys' schools on grounds of freedom of choice and that is a principle which is fundamental to independent education. He appears to be less concerned about parity for the sexes, which should be a principle fundamental to education itself within a free society.

To admit a minority of girls to boys' schools is unsatisfactory for one of two reasons. Either the girls receive more than their share of attention and their academic work suffers, or they concentrate on their studies to the exclusion of a normal social life.

There are still strong arguments for single-sex education up to the

sixth form, but even stronger arguments for co-education in the sixth form itself. We have recently adopted a scheme under which two former single-sex schools have become one school. There are two sections - for boys and girls - but mixed teaching in the sixth form.

As this model is unusual, if not unique, it may be of some interest. It combines the advantages of the large sixth form, as in a sixth-form college, with the advantages of the 11 to 18 school. Above all, it ensures that girls and boys are regarded as equal although taught separately for good educational reasons during the adolescent years.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. DONALDSON, Principal, Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Victoria Road, Newcastle, Staffordshire, April 30.

I am, Sir, yours etc.
HUGH LLOYD-JONES, Christ Church, Oxford, May 12.

Conservative paper. Loyal readers of J. L. Garvin cannot have cared much for Mr Astor's politics, but it was possible for them to stop taking the paper.

So now why is it so wicked for Mr Rowland to interfere to the least degree with the paper's left-wing activities?

If Mr Rowland has the nerve to sack Mr Treford and bring back the politics of Garvin, I might start taking *The Observer*, whose literary section is good, once more.

A paper's politics

From Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones, FBA

Sir, When Mr David Astor (May 12) bought *The Observer*, it was a

Saving food for charitable use

From Mr Malcolm Muggeridge

Sir, Hearing with horror of the vast destruction of edible food under Common Market auspices, it occurred to me that a way of more charitably disposing of it would be to hand it over to Mother Teresa.

She knows, none better, where the hungry are to be found; she has her Missions of Charity and other helpers all over the world; an appeal from her for transportation would, I am sure, be heeded. Above all, she would have the prayers of all Christians and other believers everywhere.

Might it not be tried?

Sincerely,
MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE, Park Cottage, Robertsbridge, Sussex, May 11.

Damage to glasshouses

From Lord Sidmouth

Sir, You report in your issue of May 8 the circumstances under which the well-known firm of Thomas Rochford and Sons have had to close down their production of house plants. The costings quoted by them illustrate all too clearly the very severe pressure under which the glasshouse industry in this country has been operating since we entered the European Community and since, almost at the same time, oil prices began their upward surge.

Although horticulture is deemed to be part of agriculture and has many interests in common, it certainly has not been the recipient of any significant part of the Community expenditure under the CAP, and the cost of any surpluses of glasshouse produce falls wholly upon the grower.

When Britain joined the Community its glasshouse growers lost the tariff protection which they then enjoyed against the majority of their competitors, who were already members. Consequently they were subjected to the full force of competition, not all of it unsubsidized.

The result has been much hardship, with the closing down of businesses and loss of employment, of which Thomas Rochford and Sons is only the best-known example.

Yours sincerely,
SIDMOUTH, House of Lords, May 9.

Farm reforms in China

From Mrs Penny Kane

Sir, Estimates of the 1959-61 famine in China (letter, May 4) can now be much improved following the release in recent months of various official Chinese data.

Calculations based on these suggest a minimum of 14 million excess deaths during those years, or nearly two thirds more than would have been expected under "normal" conditions.

Similar calculations undertaken for births suggest that there were up to 21 million fewer births than would have been expected, though for technical reasons this figure may be somewhat on the high side. Many of the missing births were, however, made up in subsequent years when they helped to create the "birth bulge" of the mid-1960s.

Nevertheless, it appears that Mr Lin considerably underestimates the effects of the famine and its mortality impact among, particularly, the elderly and children, especially female children. Chinese food policies, together with population policies since 1970, have been heavily influenced, I believe, by remembrance of the disaster.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY KANE, As from: David Owen Centre for Population Studies, University College, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, May 13.

The miners' strike

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Nottingham North (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Joe Ashton (May 14) implies the somewhat incredible suggestion that Nottinghamshire miners should not be entitled to a vote in a national ballot on the current industrial action.

Notwithstanding that the Nottinghamshire miners have been paying their union dues like the rest of the miners and they have been bound since they first joined the union to the union rules, the very suggestion defies belief. Is Mr Ashton really suggesting that the Nottingham miners should be bound by a decision in which they have no participation? This would be like saying that anyone who does not vote Labour is not entitled to vote at the general election!

What Mr Ashton is making is a case against a national union, which is something no doubt that the Nottingham miners will be considering before too long.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY, House of Commons, May 14.

Out of touch

From Brigadier J. C. Moore

Sir, I refer to those downtrodden Hyde Park joggers who were unresponsive to the greetings and eye contact of the visiting Senior Vice-President of the Crocker National Bank (May 12).

Perhaps they were Midland Bank shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MOORE, Gilbert's Yard, Fernhurst, Peasenhoe, Cornwall, May 12.

THE ARTS

Cinema
Political
novelties

The British flag is bravely waving at the Cannes Festival, even if the director credits of the two films in competition suggest a Polish invasion. Marcin Krawczyk's film of Julian Mitchell's play *Another Country* (which opens in London on June 8) was the first film exhibited in competition. Jerzy Skolimowski's *Success* is the *Best Revenge* will be shown on Friday. The genesis of Skolimowski's film was a short story by his own 15-year-old son; it follows *Moonlighting* to the extent of being about Polish temperaments confronting British society. Michael York plays the leading role, of a successful Polish theatre director living in London with his wife and children. "In part - looks and behaviour - he is myself," says Skolimowski, "but ideologically and morally he is a lot of different people."

The Polish connexion continues in *Cal*, which is photographed with an outsider's sense of the exotic, by Jerzy Zielinski. The film is produced by David Puttnam for Goldcrest, but appears here as an Irish entry, with an authentically Irish character. It is adapted by Bernard McEvelly from his own novel, and belongs to a venerable tradition of fatalistic dramas set against the background of twentieth-century Irish history.

Cal is a 19-year-old Catholic living in present-day Ulster and unable to extricate himself from the mechanisms of sectarian hostility and fanaticism. The film's sympathies are with neither side, rather it sides with people against the war. Bigotry, bullies and terrorists, flags, banners and parades are as perilous on either side.

The director, Pat O'Connor, is himself Irish, but trained in the film school of U.C.L.A. The only sign that *Cal* is a first feature is a tendency to first pulling out all the stops - particularly the touches of Fordian pastoral-romance that contrast with the urban horrors. It was well received by the Cannes audience, for whom a British film with overt political content is a comparative novelty.

British politics certainly figure on the screen here. Foreign audiences are intrigued, in *Another Country* - which toughens up the socio-political implications of the original play - by our fascination both with class and our cherished little group of Cambridge spies.

The Falklands war figures in *Argie*, directed by Jorge Blanco, an Argentine expatriate and shown in the *Semaine de la Critique*. Begun during the conflict and finished under grave financial difficulties, it remains a rough sketch, but engaging.

It is about an expatriate living in London who despises equally the British and the Germans, but is still a patriot. He decides to wage his own war - or at least the pillage and rape part of it. His first rape victim, a pub stripper, turns out to be an annoying good-humoured and accommodating about it. Their subsequent adventures together, the mishaps and anguish of the man (a beautiful comic performance by the director himself) and the interest scenes of the war catch the mixture of tragedy and comedy in that strange little piece of history.

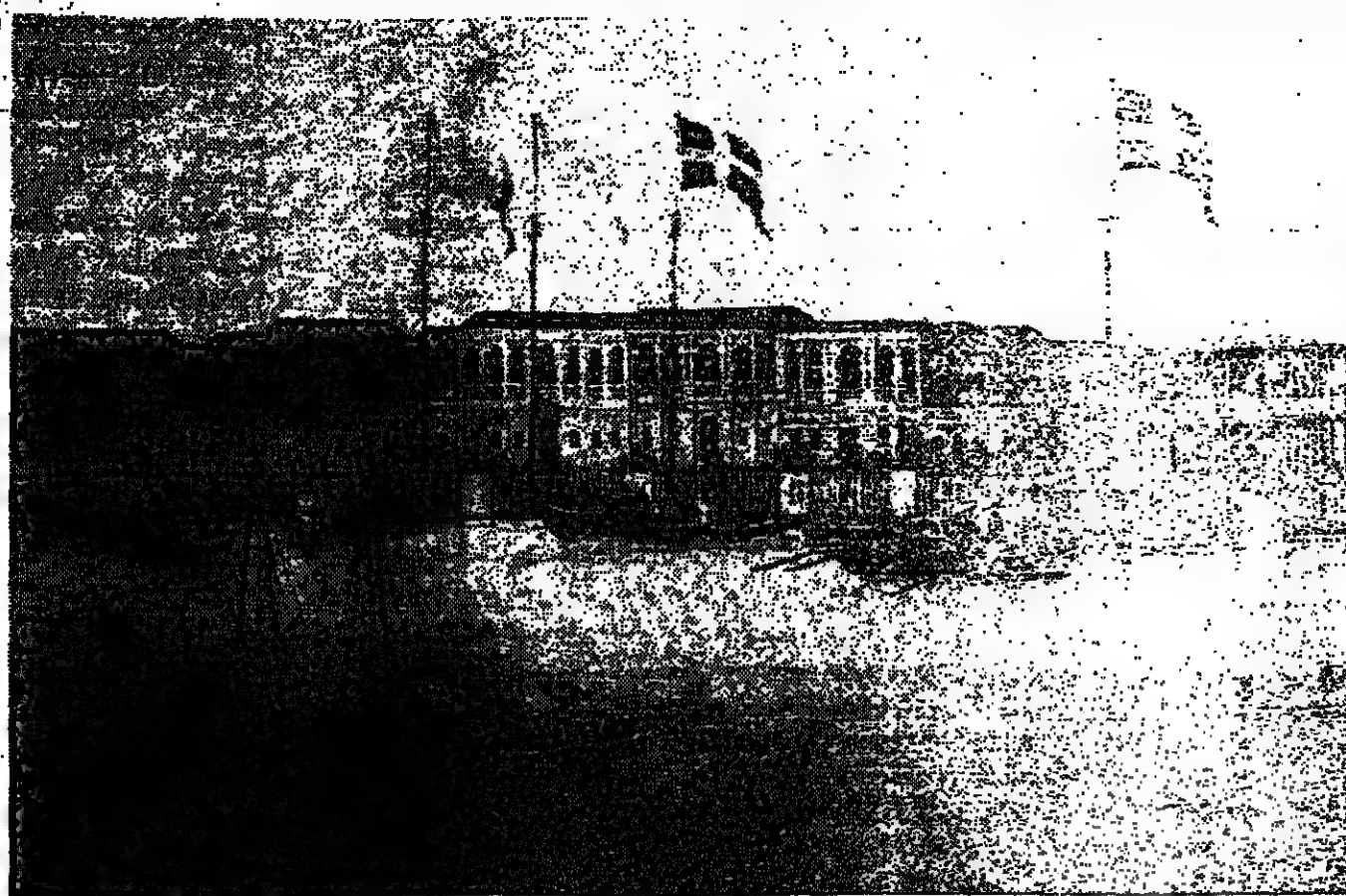
Other British films figure in the Directors' Fortnight: Stephen Frears's *The Hit*, a complex drama of crime and retribution; Chris Petit's *Flight to Berlin*; and *The Bastard*, the latest venture of the Merchant-Ivory group, for once not in competition in Cannes.

David Robinson

Black Ball Game
Lyric, Hammersmith

Racial prejudice is a subtle but not many comic writers care to grasp, and it was a sad waste when Don Webb's play expired three years ago after a short run at the Theatre Royal, Hammersmith. The welcome revival confirms *Black Ball Game* as an extremely effective polemic - all the more persuasive for holding its anger in reserve - which delivers a weighty civil rights, cargo without overloading a tightly plotted and very funny satire on salesmanship.

Through one day of steadily mounting desperation it follows the squalid manoeuvres of a fly-

Sober but graceful observation: detail from watercolour on silk of *The Canton Waterfront*Cracow RSO/
Penderecki
St Bartholomew's,
Brighton

To criticize Penderecki's work in progress is about as useful as to criticize the Arc de Triomphe. It is a national monument and, what is more, it belongs to someone else. If one were to commit the error of considering this *Polish Requiem* as a work of art, then of course it would have to be judged unbearably pretentious.

The apparatus is enormous (four soloists, chorus and large orchestra), as is the length: Monday night's Brighton Festival performance, introducing us to just the "Agnus Dei" and some small fragments of the "Dies Irae", went on for well over half an hour and no doubt when the work is complete it will considerably out-distance the Verdi and Berlioz funeral masses rolled together.

It may yet have rather fewer notes. Following his practice of the past decade, Penderecki spreads the melodic material of a nursery rhyme over the dimensions of a Bruckner symphony. But, if the pace is Brucknerian, the substance decidedly is not. Penderecki's counterpoint is shamelessly tentative, rarely venturing beyond two faintly coupled parts, except for the favourite mass effects of fear and loathing.

In this sub-tonal music the triad remains the surprise it was in the stonal Penderecki of yesterday, but only because the harmonic reach is so tiny and the existence of three notes at the same time is so stunning an achievement.

But here I am taking the wrong tack. We were witnessing not a musical composition, but a religious event, but a national act of remembrance. The "Agnus Dei" was written for the tenth anniversary of the 1970 uprising in Gdansk. Beyond those immediate occasions, the fitness of a Polish requiem at this point in history needs no explanation. Of course, Verdi and Berlioz managed to create requiems that were both official and personal, monumental and artistic. Penderecki's is born in rougher style.

At least the result is music not too discommoded by the cavernous acoustic of the high Tractarian basilica that is St Bartholomew's. Jadwiga Gaudulaka and Vera Baniewicz were the properly Slavonic lady

Concerts

soloists, and Andrzej Leonard Mroczek, the trumpet bass, the tenor, William Kendall, matched him in fervour, and so too did the Academy of St Martin's Choir.

The Cracow Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the composer, played their chromatic scales with all the sombre earnestness the occasion demanded. Curiously they sounded even more fired by the importance of their task for Antoni Wit in Penderecki's Violin Concerto, which had no national significance but only the superb confidence of the soloist, Konstanty Kulka, to mask its vacuity.

Paul Griffiths

Mitsuko Uchida
St John's/Radio 3

Schoenberg and Schubert represented a thoughtful contrast in the BBC's lunchtime concert by Mitsuko Uchida at St John's, Smith Square, on Monday, which can be heard again on Radio 3 next Sunday. The pianist, now London-based, used a shrewdly judged contrast of dynamics and control of the music's ebb and flow to help point the structure of Schoenberg's Three Piano Pieces, Op. 11, one of the first works in which he began to abandon traditional tonality.

She was particularly successful in the attention she gave to the balance of phrasing and the harmonies involved in the lengthier second piece, where the gentle but menacing ornamento in the bass register repeatedly modified the effect of the rest. The rapidly evolving ideas and abrupt changes of character in the third piece were moulded by Schoenberg's new style of piano writing into a vivid tone picture.

The control of dynamic levels was also a feature of Schubert's G major Sonata (D 894), where the wide-ranging opening movement (which the first publishers labelled a *fantasia*) was played with a clear view of its musical purpose, even to a repeat of the initial exposition in spite of the repetition of ideas within it. As the quiet appeal of the opening turned more assertive, the pianist skilfully deepened its sonority.

Her control of phrasing gave an almost courtly character to the slow movement, and the minor movement was distinguished by a concern for its moderate tempo as well as for the lyrical grace of its trio.

Noël Goodwin

Fine Arts Brass
Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

It used to be accepted that, for lack of serious repertoire, brass quintets had to fill their programmes with arrangements and frivolities. With the likes of Elliott Carter and Maxwell Davies having contributed substantial works for the medium, however, the situation is changing, but despite including a new piece that made uncompromising demands on the listener and two others that were rather more than simple entertainment, the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble nevertheless balanced their first major London concert towards light-heartedness, in presentation as well as content.

Having thus criticized, I must at once say that this group's extraordinarily polished ensemble playing easily bears comparison with the likes of Philip Jones and colleagues. In Jonny Harrison's neatly titled *Sons transmutant/sans transmutant*, written for them last year, they found an excellent vehicle for displaying the variety of colour available to them. The overlapping and constantly shifting sonorities of the opening sustained unison B flat are cleverly applied, section by section, to an ever-unfolding texture, while the ultimate return to a narrower register is crowned by a teasingly suspended close.

Malcolm Arnold's Brass Quintet has become something of a classic, but is no easier to play for that. This reading had a scintillating sparkle to it, while at the same time the performers were well aware, and made use of, of the uncompromising Teutonic toughness of the first movement and the intriguingly sinister sentiment of the central Chaconne. Ludovico's *Mini Overture*, the only other original work in the evening, was given with an engaging briskness, and not a hint of pomp.

As for the rest, it varied from a rather laboriously contrived (and, I thought, patronisingly introduced) "Stuart Masque" arranged by Stephen Roberts, the group's composer and first horn, to an effervescent Fats Waller group transcribed by Bryan Allen, who plays second trumpet. He it was who made the transcription of the first movement of Vivaldi's Double Trumpet Concerto, and with his colleague Angus Cusshaw he brought it off brilliantly.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

on the strength of one night with John, and leaving him to clear up the mess. The first applicant then arrives: an enthusiastic, well educated and resourceful young salesman, who happens to be black.

It is no news to him that black salesmen are an unknown species; and he proves his vocation first by selling himself to the cynically dismissive John, and then sailing triumphantly through a trial interview with the oily Des who finally acknowledges defeat with a torrent of racist abuse.

John, to whom Lee Walker brings an all-too-credible blend of aggressive intelligence and queasy self-disgust, is the moral centre of the story: alcoholically

floundering in a job he despises for a boss he hates, but still capable of escaping notwithstanding the risk in unemployment of which the revised text duly takes note. Harry, the black applicant (Hugh Quarshie, the lone survivor of the 1981 production) and Michael Medwin's weasel-smooth Des occupy the fixed positions of ironist and impostor.

Mr Webb's particular success, however, is to combine the absolute patterns of classical satire with the compromises of the real world: so that, even if racism ends with eggs on his face, Des still sinks off - stuffing the hotel fruit into his briefcase - to cheat another day.

Irving Wardle

Lynda Ellis is incurable;
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Lynda Ellis was always outgoing. Brought up in various countries, she returned to Britain to teach the culinary skills which she possessed.

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Chinese Export
Watercolours
Victoria and Albert
Museum

Often the most enlightening shows at the major London museums are those which look no further than their own attics and basements or wherever (in immaculately controlled conditions I have no doubt) the enormous reserves of normally unshown material are kept. By definition these works are not of absolutely the first rank, or they would be on permanent exhibition, but they are there for some reason, and in any case the Victoria and Albert's second or third rank probably equals the front rank in most other places. The little show of Chinese Export Watercolours in the Henry Cole wing is a good case in point.

When Western traders really began to impinge on the Chinese consciousness in the early eighteenth century, it was

almost immediately realized that they offered an interesting new sales outlet for all kinds of Chinese art products. Being practical in such matters, the Chinese soon recognized that works made entirely for home consumption might not be to the Western taste, and set about finding what would exert the strongest appeal.

Having worked this out to their own satisfaction (and hopefully to that of potential purchasers), they supplied the felt want with a will. Innumerable artists in the coastal regions which were most regularly in contact with foreigners turned out by the hundred scores of Chinese life which were deliberately exotic enough to whet the curiosity of foreign audiences, along with works specifically referring to the tea trade and other sections of the export market which might be expected to raise some immediate bell outside China.

There were also many views of the ports known to Western traders, and natural history

illustrations, combining grace and charm with educational value, as well as "miscellaneous subjects" which could take in anything from local boat design to Chinese ladies' hairstyles. A & A has recently published a new volume in its Far Eastern Series on the subject of its holdings of these export watercolours and drawings (by Craig Clunas, £8.95), and to match it there is this comprehensive exhibition (until May 27) which shows everything illustrated in the book.

Clearly the Chinese artists involved gauged their export market well, for even today it is hard not to respond at once, like Pavlov's dogs, when they press the right buttons. Whether it is with scenes of delicate fantasy, like the intricate landscape of *Monkeys Picking Herbs* (c.1780), or the sober down-to-earth observation in the slightly earlier watercolour on silk of *The Canton Waterfront*, the charm and grace are irresistible.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Posthumous perils

"had been born, darkly and tremulously, a soul. It was as if the funeral pyre had proved inadequate to the phoenix."

"Success," boomed the voice, "is like some horrible disaster." Lowry's book, after many rejections and five years of rewriting, had finally been accepted by Jonathan Cape. "The seagulls were flying again." And the metaphors were getting magnificently mixed. Malcolm and his friends were now "like men whose eyes are being stuffed with potatoes". Fame, "like a drunkard, consumes the house of the soul".

Lowry, former boxer, "disliking homosexuals" and "intensely afraid of syphilis", was not entirely at his ease with women. Lowry: "You're the

greatest woman in the world. But why do I have to listen to you?" Woman: "You look like Saint Sebastian. I'm fresh out of halos. There are all kinds of women. Some of them like dogs. Some of them like husbands." Lowry: "God and I see through everything. And we're through you." Woman: "Malcolm. Please! You are sick." Lowry: "I'm a great man."

John Huston has filmed the book. He and several familiar actors have things to say about it, but with *The Rise of Spring* rumbling under their feet, and distraught peasants throwing water on burning sticks in the background (the Midlands Fire Brigade figure prominently in the credits), it is hard to catch

Tom Abbott (below), a Jet in the very first *West Side Story*, has spent most of the generation since then guarding the Jerome Robbins tradition. The show comes back to London tonight: interview by Sheridan Morley

Dramatic unity every step of the way

It was just over a quarter-century ago that *West Side Story* first opened at Her Majesty's in London, and tonight it is back there in a roadshow revival that started out last Christmas from the Leicester Haymarket. Theatre historians now will tell you this was the show which perhaps more than any other changed the sound and shape of the Broadway musical and dragged it unwillingly into the second half of the twentieth century. It was also the show that established the 27-year-old Stephen Sondheim as lyricist (his first complete Broadway score was not to come for another five years) and it was a show that almost never happened.

Its original producer Cheryl Crawford pulled out a few weeks before the opening and six years after the initial Arthur Laurents-Jerome Robbins idea had been conceived, on the grounds that it was no longer the drama-documentary about race relations in New York that she was expecting. At that point Sondheim persuaded Hal Prince to take over the production, but the initial rewrites on both sides of the Atlantic were decidedly mixed. On the first night at Her Majesty's Harold Hobson and Noel Coward were seen in heated argument, Coward defending a show that Hobson had patiently



showed. But that score also contains an indication of the staccato urgency that was later to hallmark the best of Sondheim's work ("Could it be? Yes it could. Something's coming. Something good. If I can wait" and over the past 25 years it has been in constant revival somewhere in the world: indeed the last place I saw it was an opera house in Leningrad. Certainly it had dated by then; its techniques had been overtaken by the stage-managers of the Sixties, and indeed it is in the famous judgment "people beat scenery" then it has to be said that *West Side Story* tends to be a scenery piece and one which therefore shows its age rather more than such later Sondheim scores as *Evilution* or *Company*.

But this is not, of course, in the strict sense a Sondheim score at all: it is a Bernstein score and a Jerome Robbins production and what we have now at Her Majesty's is an utterly accurate reproduction of Robbins' original staging by one of his most faithful and long-serving disciples, Tom Abbott. Mr Abbott is a theatrical figure of a kind almost totally unknown over here: not strictly a director or a choreographer in his own right, he has dedicated himself across the past 20 years to the detailed recreation of Robbins' work on *West Side Story* and *Fiddler on the Roof* in most of the theatregoing countries of the world.

Born 49 years ago in Waco, Texas, Mr Abbott set out to be a dancer. "Father worked on the railroad, but when I was nine I found out there was a tap-dancing school in the town - it's about all there was - and so I joined. Then two weeks after I got my high-school diploma I got the train to New York, enrolled in a ballet school and got a part-time job on the New York Stock Exchange as a pageboy to pay for the lessons. That was 1953 and I was 18, with such a strong Texan accent that I knew I'd never get work as an actor, so I just kept dancing."

A season in summer stock followed, then more ballet lessons and in 1956 the first auditions for *West Side Story*. "Mr Robbins had been teaching in my ballet school, so he knew my work and he took me on as a Jet. In rehearsal I worked harder than I ever had in my life; it was my first Broadway show and I was terrified of getting the sack. There were a lot of big names around - not only Mr Robbins but Sondheim and Arthur Laurents, who wrote the book, and of course Bernstein, and I think they all knew that they were on to something special and different from the musicals that had gone before. We felt in rehearsal that it had to be the biggest hit or the biggest flop in town - it sure wasn't going to be mediocre."

"We opened in Philadelphia, made some minor changes, and then began to realize what we'd got a show in which, for the first time ever, singing and dancing and acting came together in one dramatic unity. It was only with *West Side Story* that the director and the choreographer began to be one and the same person, and that the dances stopped being interruptions to the action and became the action. Robbins was

the first legit ballet man to take over a musical. Agnes de Mille had done *Oklahoma*, but only as choreographer; Mr Robbins was the director, and he paved the way for Bob Fosse and Gower Champion in the Sixties."

After two years in *West Side Story* during which time he rose through the ranks to principal dancer, Abbott was taken by Robbins to Spoleto where he was forming a new ballet company; in the years that followed, Abbott began to work for Robbins on a whole range of ballets and musicals, ending up as his assistant ballet master with the New York City company. Along the way he has reproduced 15 *Fiddlers* around the world (including the last London staging with Topol) and four *West Side Stories*.

"Each time it's a new country and a new cast, but I never change a single step of Mr Robbins' work. Nowadays of course people have video recorders to preserve choreography on tape, but when I started out I learnt every single step of *West Side* and *Fiddler* so that I could always do them from memory. I know what every dancer on that stage has to be doing at every moment."

"The great thing about Mr Robbins is that he always started with a story. Nowadays the heart has gone out of the Broadway musical and it's all rock stars with electronic technology, but with *Gypsy* and *Fiddler* and *West Side* Mr Robbins always started from people. He was really the man who built the modern Broadway musical, and although in the last ten years he's gone right back to the ballet where he started, that's only because on Broadway he can no longer find something to dance about. Until he does, I make sure that his work is kept alive."

ELLA FITZGERALD
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Goodison's head will not help the rebels' cause

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, is facing a growing threat to his re-election next month to the 52-member governing council. As one of the two principal architects of the Brave New World (the dethroned Cecil Parkinson is the other) he is the inevitable focus for the fears and resentments of the small and medium size broking firms whose businesses and livelihoods seem to them to have been put at unnecessary risk.

The 1983 concordat between the Stock Exchange and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, which saved the Stock Exchange from the Restrictive Practices Court has produced a schism among the faithful. On the one side are the 1,000 members working for London's top firms. Many of them have already reached partnership agreements with large outside institutions and, not surprisingly, they support the changes in the market structure.

On the other side are the 1,000 members working for the smaller firms which are increasingly concerned over the abolition of single capacity which appears to come inexorably with negotiated commissions and the prospect of failing to survive the commercial consequences of what seems to them a revolution taking place with indecent and dangerous haste.

Sir Nicholas is one of 13 council members seeking re-election next month. Nominations are due on June 11 and the voting takes place on June 20. Each member is allowed 13 votes, one for each vacancy.

None of the present council, where senior officials are elected, would stand in opposition to Sir Nicholas. But there is just chance that his opponents could muster enough support to defeat his re-election to the council itself.

Sir Nicholas may attend a meeting called for late today by the growing opponents of what is happening.

All council members now face the charge that while each is supposed to be like an MP for a constituency of smaller firms, they have neglected their constituency duties. Many small brokers claim they have never heard from their representatives and thus were not consulted about the changes now underway.

Mr M B B Walters of brokers Schaverien & Co. speak for money in saying: "A very significant number of the council members are partners or principals of firms which have negotiated a 29.9 per cent sell-out. By such an action these council members, having established a 29.9 per cent comfort for themselves and their firms, can no longer have a 100 per cent interest in the remaining Stock Exchange membership and member firms they purport to represent."

He went on: "With the Stock Exchange Council elections coming up next month this issue must be put to the test. Unless, in their re-election manifesto, those seeking our votes give a reassurance of the interests of the small and medium sized firms by referring the Green Paper (the Stock Exchange's own discussion document) back for proper discussion and consultation, it will be right and proper that their position on the Stock Exchange Council must be challenged in the forthcoming election."

Mr Walters said yesterday that his objections have been well received within the membership and that proper discussion and consultation would be one way of de-fusing the rebellion.

It is apparent that at least half the London members of the Stock Exchange, convinced and fervent advocates of change in virtually every other established area of our national life, from the Church to the trade union movement, are themselves afraid and distrustful of change. They would be less than human if they weren't. The real issues are whether their anxieties about the shape of things to come are well founded, rationally or emotionally, and whether these concerns ought to influence either the nature or the pace of the changes envisaged.

It needs to be said that no opposition from smaller firms can roll back the attempt, through the deliberate release of market forces, to make London into an efficient, and therefore, competitive international securities market. To achieve that requires a new market dealing system (almost certainly a competing market making system on American lines). That

in turn requires financially powerful groupings of brokers, bankers and other players. Both system and structure demand new techniques based on communications and systems technology largely unfamiliar to the bulk of Stock Exchange members.

In addition to generalized fear of change, resentment at lack of consultation, and a genuine belief that rapid revolutions end in grief, the smaller firms have specific fears. Will there be a market to which they can go to act simply as agents for the clients in the way they know and they believe to be best? Or will they be compelled to become market makers - something they are not remotely qualified to do? Is the only salvation to sell to a big brother, losing their independence and their equity? Will the new technology be available to them on the same terms and at the same time as the leading firms? Why should they underwrite a Compensation Fund that will be exposed in future to new and bigger hazards not of their choosing?

The task facing the Stock Exchange Council is essentially this: to convince its troubled and rebellious members that while the first objective is to raise London as an international market, the second aim is to maintain and strengthen the "home" market in securities. The first does not exclude the second. Nor does it require the extinction of small and medium firms acting solely as agents. On the contrary. With proper forethought and sensible rule-making, in what promises to be an expanding market for both private shareholders and capital seeking domestic British companies, the future beckons them as surely as it does their bigger brethren.

Worth the struggle and the price

The hostility among pension funds especially to Reuter's capital structure has taken some toll. Underwriting has cost 2 per cent instead of 1 1/4 per cent, although this can equally be explained by the longer-than-usual three-week waiting period dictated by the simultaneous issue in London and New York.

It is harder to tell whether that, rather than the fast-changing investment climate, has affected the group's launch value, once put as high as £1.5 billion by outside optimists and now down to £170m at the minimum London tender price. Judging from the suggested range in the New York offering, bankers Warburgs and Rothschilds, not to mention the hand-rubbing newspaper publishing groups, will be most upset if the London striking price is anywhere near the minimum.

Even at that level the two years' of complex negotiations and compromises needed to sort out Fleet's shareholdings, secure the future of PA news services through its retained "A" shares and satisfy the need to protect the international independence of Reuters news services have all been more than worthwhile for the economy of Britain's newspaper industry.

Certainly, the Reuters prospectus reveals a company that should find a wide welcome among investors big and small. Reuters is both pioneer and world leader in one of the fastest-growing businesses in the world, serving, with rapidly advancing technology, the equally fast-growing worldwide financial markets.

Potential investors should wait for some reaction in New York before deciding what price to bid. For the moment, the US shares will be held via depository receipts, with a likely over-the-counter quotation. That is unlikely to put off the Americans, especially as an orderly marketing agreement will stop more "B" shares flooding into the market before 1986. And I cannot see British pension funds and insurance companies keeping out of the auction.

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

Late bookings for the briefing on May 22 - at which the principal speaker will be Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury - can be made by telephoning 01-405 3501 (24 hours). The venue is the Dorchester Hotel in London.

Reuters, the news agency and financial information group will be launched on the London Stock Exchange at the beginning of next month on terms that are likely to value it at between £790m and £920m and raise about £50m in new capital to finance development.

Up to 25 per cent of Reuters Holdings' capital is to be sold simultaneously in London and New York. Half of this is to be via an offer for sale by tender of 57 million low-voting B shares in London at a minimum tender price of 180p per share.

A further 50-million shares, and possibly up to 57 million, are to be offered in New York on a different system, which suggests a price range of between 200p and 235p.

Employees will be offered a further 3 million shares at 75p each.

The prospectus, published as a special supplement to *The Times* today, reveals that the launch of Reuters represents the greatest cash injection yet for Fleet Street and provincial newspaper publishers and newspaper companies in Australia

and New Zealand. It will also turn Reuters' managing director, Mr Glen Renfrew, and two other Reuters executive directors into millionaires.

The former shareholdings in Reuters were controlled by the Newspaper Publishers Association, representing Fleet Street papers; the Press Association, which is largely owned by provincial newspaper groups and the Australian and New Zealand associations. These have now been split into 27 per cent high-voting 'A' shares, which will retain control of Reuters, but will not be freely traded, B shares, accounting for 73 per cent, which can be sold, have mostly been transferred to individual newspaper publishing companies.

The shareholders have taken widely differing attitudes that have led the International Thomson Organisation to sell its entire B share stake while News International, owner of Times Newspapers, is selling none.

Reuters was founded in London in 1851 by Paul Julius

Main UK newspaper owners of Reuters

	max cash from sale	value of uncol shares
Fleet Holdings	£50.2m	£5.2m
Assoc Newspapers	£17.8m	£3.7m
News Int.	£14m	£4.8m
Read Int.	£14m	£3.3m
Guardian	£8m	£2.6m
Telegraph	£8m	£1.8m
Int. Thomson	£25m	none retained
S. Pearson	£7.7m	£15.3m
Ud Newspapers	£9.8m	£5m

● All values calculated on a 500p issue price assuming all shares on offer are sold

Reuters, a German immigrant, as a service to transfer stock and share prices rapidly between the City and the Continent. It rapidly turned into a general news agency servicing newspapers all over the world. In 1941 it effectively had to be rescued in an agreement between the newspaper owners designed to guarantee its continued independence, through shareholdings and trustees.

The group achieved a new prosperity in the 1960s and 1970s by returning to its financial origins via new elec-

tronic money market information services transmitted through 33,000 Reuter Monitor video terminals. It is now achieving a second phase of rapid growth by offering subscribers a direct money market dealing service through pressing buttons on desk consoles.

Reuters paid its first dividend for 40 years in 1981. Profits have grown rapidly, reaching £55m on turnover of £242m in 1983. The board, headed by Sir Denis Hamilton, is forecasting about £70m pretax profit for 1984, which would produce after-tax earnings of 10.29p per share.

At the minimum 180p tender price, Reuters shares would sell at 17.5 times earnings and yield 1.98 per cent in dividend.

The group's complex share structure, which also includes a blocking share for trustees, angered leading City institutions so much that they have boycotted the process of underwriting the shares. Nevertheless, the London issue has been fully underwritten at the higher than usual commission of 2 per cent.

Lloyd's to allow outside investors

By Andrew Cornwell

The Lloyd's of London insurance market opened its doors to outside investors yesterday to mark the latest stage in the City's financial services revolution.

A new underwriting agents' bylaw, which took effect yesterday, means that for the first time non-members of Lloyd's will be able to buy controlling stakes of Lloyd's managing agencies and members' agencies. Previously, outside investors were restricted to buying non-voting shares in the agencies.

Early next year the Lloyd's authorities are likely to relax the rules governing the ownership of Lloyd's brokers and underwriters by the large composite insurance companies.

The changes mean that financial institutions which are expanding their role to take part in the financial services revolution made possible by the relaxation of the Stock Exchange rules governing the control of stockbrokers and stockjobbers, will also be able to take a position in Lloyd's.

The relaxation of the Lloyd's ownership rules is likely to speed the insurance market's moves to diversify insurance broking and underwriting agency interests in the market by the July 1987 deadline set by the 1982 Lloyd's Act.

The ownership of about one third of the 140 agencies within the Lloyd's market is expected to change hands before 1987 to comply with a law aimed at preventing a conflict of interests between managing agencies and underwriting agencies within the market.

The Lloyd's authorities hammered out the ownership proposals at meetings late last week after liaison with City issuing houses and the Stock Exchange. The Lloyd's council ratified the proposals on Monday after taking note of the objections raised by City investors to the proposed issue of non-voting shares in the Reuters news agency.

Lloyd's will protect the interests of the market by insisting that any financial institution taking a stake in an agency should not interfere in the underwriting arrangements of the agency.

Where there is any evidence of unreasonable influence upon the underwriters by the owner of an agency, the Lloyd's Council will be able to instruct the directors of the agency to sell their holding.

Lloyd's of London is considering proposals which would ban 34 non-Lloyd's broking firms with annual premium income of £9m from placing insurance business in the Lloyd's market.

Two groups barred from Sealink bid

By Jeremy Warner

European Ferries and P & O are being struck off the list of contenders for Sealink, the British Rail cross-Channel ferry business which is being sold off as part of the Government's privatisation programme, on competition grounds. Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said yesterday.

P & O was told that any bid it made would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Since British Rail has set a deadline of the end of next month for the sale to be completed, the six months that an examination by the Commission would normally be expected to take, effectively ruled the company out, a Department of Trade and Industry spokesman said.

The Department of Trade and Industry has also refused to release European Ferries from undertakings it gave four years ago not to bid for Sealink after the Commission found that combining its Townsend Thoresen cross-Channel business with that of Sealink would be anticompetitive.

Mr Tebbit's decision was condemned last night by both P & O and European Ferries. Mr Ken Siddle, the European Ferries chairman, said he was disappointed and frustrated that so far as he was concerned the matter was not dead. He said: "Allowing us to bid for



Ken Siddle: "the matter is not dead"

Sealink would have ensured that the highest possible price was seen to be obtained for the taxpayer, it could have ensured greatly reduced fares.

At P & O Mr Jeffrey Sterling, the chairman, said he was surprised and disappointed because his company was the best placed of all the contenders to develop Sealink into a commercial success.

Four other bidders have been cleared from the threat of a reference. They are Trafalgar House, which is toying with the idea of bidding for P & O; Sea Containers, a Bermuda company best known for running a modern version of the Orient Express; Ellerman Lines; and a consortium of the Sealink management, the National Freight Consortium and several City institutions.

Retail sales recover to peak

By Frances Williams

Economics Correspondent

Business in the shops bounced back last month after a depressed start to the year, allaying fears that the consumer boom had run its course. But retailers gave a warning yesterday that further rises in interest rates could severely damage consumer confidence and dampen spending.

The volume of retail sales showed an unexpectedly sharp jump of 3.6 per cent in April to reach a peak of 112.2 (1980 = 100), easily surpassing the previous record of 111 for the run-up to Christmas last year, according to provisional figures from the trade department. This bears out retailers' claims that sluggish sales in the first three months of the year were due largely to special factors, chiefly the severe weather and the lateness of Easter.

The cut in the mortgage rate and Budget tax reductions will have helped to give sales in April renewed impetus.

The Retail Consortium, which represents the bulk of Britain's retailers, said trade was holding up well so far this month but injected a note of concern on interest rates.

Business in the three months to April was about the same as in the previous three months, but 3.5 per cent above its level a year earlier.

US output up 14%

US industrial production increased by a seasonally-adjusted 1.4 per cent in April after a revised 0.5 per rise in March, the Federal Reserve Board reported in Washington.

April's industrial growth pushed output so far this year 14.4 per cent above the level of 12 months earlier.

Meanwhile, in early trading on Wall Street, share prices were mostly lower, surrendering early technical gains.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was virtually unchanged, having been up by more than three points earlier. Declining shares narrowly outnumbered advances.

Superior Oil was the most active issue, unchanged at \$41 1/2.

Wall Street prices, page 17

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1094.6 up 12.2 (high: 1095; low: 1083)
FT Index: 878.0 up 4.0
FT Gilt: 79.68 up 0.05
FT All Shares: 518.88 up 4.2
Bargains: 24,272
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 115.07 up 0.51
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1148.97 down 2.10
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,604.54 up 41.20
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 924.07 up 15.35

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3875 down 5 pips
Index 79.9 down 0.2
DM 3.8175 down 0.01
FF 11.74 down 0.0125
Yen 322 up 1.0
Dollar Index 131.5 down 0.2
DM 2.7500 down 0.0040
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3880
Dollar DM 2.7440
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.586671
SDR £0.750554

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9-9 1/2
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixed 7-6 1/2
3 month interbank 9 1/2 - 9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 12 - 1 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4
3 month FF 12 1/2
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 10 1/2
Treasury long bond 9 7/8 - 9 9/8
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 4, 1984 to May 1, 1984 inclusive: 8.934 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$373.35 pm \$373.25
close \$373.50 (\$269.25)
New York (latest) \$374.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$384 - 385.75 (\$277 - 278)
Sovereigns (new):
\$88 - 89 (\$63.25 - 64.25)
Excludes VAT

IN BRIEF

Queensway bids £7.8m for stores

Harris Queensway, the carpet and furniture retailing company built up by Mr Phil Harris, has launched an agreed £7.8m bid for Leeds-based Bakers Household Stores.

Bakers operates 26 self-service stores selling non food merchandise in the North of England. Harris is bidding one of its shares and £11.80 cash or £15.60 cash for every 10 Bakers shares.

SEARS HOLDINGS is to pay a final dividend of 1.8p for the year ended January 31, 1984, bringing the total to 2.5p (1.87p). Profits jumped by 40 per cent to a record £39.1m. As part of the group's push into the United States, Sears should announce an ADR listing shortly in New York, just a few weeks after acquiring a 115-share store chain from National Shoe for \$21m.

Tempos, page 16

Economists urge EEC growth

Call for reflation

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Europe's extraordinary rise in unemployment can only be reversed if the leading governments agree to a temporary reflation of their economies, according to a pre-summit report published yesterday by the Macroeconomic Policy Group of the Centre for European Policy Studies.

The group, which was set up by the Centre in 1982 after consultations with the EEC Commission, consists of a small number of well-known European economists under the chairmanship of professor Rudiger Dornbusch of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The group's second general report, *The Case for Unrestricted Growth*, argues that the European economy is now so far below its trend rate of economic growth - a gap of about 8 per cent by 1983 - that a temporary budgetary reflation is necessary. An "exce-

lent form of stimulus", the group argues, "would be increased infrastructure investment, with temporary investment subsidies in the private sector and a temporary employment subsidy."

The group examines three possible constraints which might impede successful reflation, its report argues that there is no danger of rekindling inflation while unemployment in Europe, which exceeds 10 per cent, is so far above "non-acceleration inflationary rate of unemployment", or NAIRU. This is calculated to be about 7 1/2 per cent for the EEC economies. The group argues that there would be no "financial constraint" provided reflation were temporary, and that co-ordination between the leading economies would avoid the risks to which a single country would be exposed if it reflation alone.

The group, having timed it

report for the run-up to the London economic summit, takes care to point out the differences between now and 1978, when leading governments agreed to a co-ordinated reflation at the Bonn economic summit. The results of this policy were subsequently widely criticized. The group argues that there is much more slack in the world economy now than there was in 1978.

However, at a public discussion of the report organized yesterday by the London School of Economics, professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University attacked what he called the "neo-Keynesian orthodoxy" of the group and argued that previous attempts at reflation since the mid-1960s had all ended in higher inflation.

CEPS papers No. 8/9, Rue Ducale 33-1000 Brussels.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Thorn talks revive price rally

By Michael Clark

News of the merger talks between Thorn EMI and British Aerospace breathed life into the equity market yesterday, just as the stock market's technical rally showed signs of slowing.

In the event, dealers reported a fresh wave of buying orders after hours that enabled the FT Index to close at its high for the day, 4.0 up at 878.0. The FT-SE 100 showed some much wider spread support, closing 12.2 up at 1094.6.

Dealers expressed satisfaction at the news of the \$4.5 billion safety net for Chicago's biggest bank, the Continental Illinois, which in turn had a steady influence on the US bond market. Gilt-edged prices also indicated satisfaction at the course of events, extending opening gains of 1/2% to a further 1/2% after hours to show gains of 1/2% on the day in longs, as the dollar showed signs of running out of steam on the money markets. At the shorter end, the improvements were restricted to 1/4%.

The FT Government Securities Index failed to monitor the late movements, closing only 0.06 higher at 79.69. In equities, sentiment was also helped by figures from Grand Metropolitan, the brewing to hotel giant, showing interim profits up 30 per cent at £147m. But subsequent profit-taking left the shares only 2p higher on the day at 342p.

Stores greeted the news of a 3.6 per cent rise in the Retail Price Index during April cautiously. Marks and Spencer hardened 2p to 162p while Boots firmed 1p to 167p.

Dealers reported surprise at the reaction to record profits from Sears Holdings, the Selfridges store to William Hill bookmaking group. These showed pretax profits but from £113m to £159.1m. But the

shares could only muster a disappointing 2p rise to 90p.

Having failed in his attempt to buy Style Shoes and Comet, Mr Phil Harris has now bid for Bakers Stores, the supermarket retailer. Harris Queensway is bidding £7.5m for the group and has already received undertakings for 40 per cent of the shares. Bakers' shares spurted 33p to 153p on the news but Harris Queensway lost 2p at 387p.

The leading banks made a long-awaited rally after the Continental Illinois news. Barclays advanced 20p to 484p, Lloyds 10p to 579p, National Westminster 20p to 637p and Midland 5p to 374p.

Marins the Newsagents advanced 3p to 311p - 51p above the 260p being bid by W. H. Smith - on hopes that a white knight will appear. Speculation that BAT Industries has been buying shares appears wide of the mark. Arthur Guinness, which already owns a newsagent chain, seems a safer bet and is believed to have picked up a parcel of shares.

Among the merchant banks, Hill Samuel held steady at 280p as a line of 300,000 shares went through the market at a small discount to the present price.

Among blue chips, Allied Lyons was wanted 6p dearer at 167p. There was also support for Beecham 7p to 323p, Glaxo 7p to 830p, ICI 4p to 366p, TI Group 4p to 250p and Plessey 2p to 220p. Hawker Siddeley took off after the news of the merger talks between British Aerospace and Thorn EMI.

The directors of Spring Ram, the Yorkshire kitchen and bathroom equipment manufacturer, have decided to sell part of their holding in the company.

amounting to 950,000 shares, or 9.04 per cent of the total. Mr Bill Rooney, chairman, has sold 271,000 shares, reducing his holding to 2,085 million shares.

Sagittas AG, a trust controlled by the Rooney family, has sold a further 207,000 shares and now owns 1.58 million, while two other directors, Mr Robert Murray and Mr John Smith, have been selling their own shares. The balance of 102,000 shares was sold by five other directors. The shares were placed with a number of institutions at a premium to the present share price at 200 23/32. The share price was unmoved at 196p yesterday on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Mr Michael Clark (no relation), a private investor, has agreed to buy 600,000 shares (19 per cent) in Diamond Stylus from Mr Geoffrey Kendall-Jackson, a director of Diamond Stylus. This raised speculation that it might be the move to a full bid and sent the shares racing ahead 5p to 42p. The American group Katy Industries is Diamond Stylus's biggest shareholder with a near 30 per cent stake.

The Kuwait Investment Office has reduced its stake in Hogg Robinson, the Lloyd's insurance broker and long-favoured market speculator. The Kuwaitis now own 11.10 per cent compared with the 13 per cent announced in March. Mills & Allen International owns another 8 per cent of the equity and Aiken Ham recently bought just over 5 per cent of the shares. They closed 1p dearer at 193p.

Mr Michael Ashcroft has again stepped up his holding in Henlys to just below the important 29.9 per cent level above which he must make a full offer for the company.

Coleman Milne, the luxury car conversion group, of which he is chairman, has just bought an extra 300,000 shares, taking its total holding to 3.8 million shares, or 27.1 per cent. This now means that just over 56 per cent of the equity is now held by two outside shareholders. The Bank of Scotland owns 29.62 per cent under the name of Arondene. Henlys, once the target of an unsuccessful dawn raid by Mr Jim Gregory, chairman of Queens Park Rangers Football Club, was unmoved at 121p.

Discount house King & Shaxson improved 3p to 155p as the Courtatlas Pensions Common Investment Fund announced it had been buying

Shares of loss-making Milford Docks rose another 1p to 47p yesterday after hitting a new low of 39p last account. Full-year figures, due shortly, are expected to make better reading. There is talk that they may be followed by a bid. Last year, a consortium bought nearly 30 per cent of the group.

another 175,000 shares in the company. This takes its total holding to 750,000 shares.

Gold made only a small improvement in quiet trade, despite news of a further weakening of the dollar on the foreign exchange. The price of the precious metal closed 25 cents up at \$373.25. The heavyweight producers mustered modest support with Harbested up \$2 at \$77.40, Kioof \$1 1/4 to \$47.50, and President Brand \$1 1/4 to \$39.75.

Equity turnover on May 14, was £249.333m (21.054 bargains). The number of British listed shares traded was 161.4 million. Gilt bargains totalled 3,628.

Hollas in £450,000 takeover

Town and County Estates (Cheshire), which is 50 per cent owned by the Hollas Group, has bought Chesters House Sales, a Manchester estate agency, for £450,000 in cash. The net assets being acquired, excluding goodwill, are £135,000.

Town and County has also acquired the goodwill of Robert Jordan and Partners and Jordan Estate Agents from Messrs Robert Jordan and Martin Dearden for £150,000 in Town and County preference shares. Messrs Jordan and Dearden together own the other 50 per cent of Town and County.

The combined business creates a widely-based estate agency, property survey and valuation division.

In brief

● **PETROLEUM:** Application list for offer for sale of 4 million shares closed, oversubscribed.

● **WOOLWORTH:** Woolworth Holdings now holds 92.96 per cent of shares in Comet Group. Offer unconditional and remains open.

● **FARNELL ELECTRONICS:** Mr R. Kidd, chairman, reports in his annual review that prospects for the coming year are still favourable and he looks forward to reporting further success in a year's time.

● **JOHN FOLKES HEFO:** Mr C. J. Folkes, chairman, reports in his annual review that 1984 started with general improvement; balance sheet strong with gearing lower than at any time since company's formation in 1968.

● **BREWMAKER:** Mr Colin Sanders, chairman, told the annual meeting that the first quarter of this year started well with turnover considerably higher than 1983.

● **RYAN INTERNATIONAL:** Results for 1983. Turnover £25.02m (£12.22m). Pretax profit £1.11m (£866,000). No dividend.

● **CRAMPHORN:** Interim dividend doubled to 10p for the half-year to December 31 last. Turnover was £5.54m (£4.78m) and pretax profit £84,000 (loss £70,000). The board is considering a capital reorganization, involving a subdivision and scrip issue.

● **OWEN OWEN:** Mr John Norman, chairman, declares in his annual review that profit improvement remains an imperative. It will be the company's main aim in 1984.

Seccombe seeks a slot in changing market

The pattern of results and corporate moves in the discount market appears to be settling down to a predictable pattern. Houses with sparkling results, like Gerrard & National, are opting to go it alone, while stragglers - Jessel? - are falling into the arms of predators.

But where the changing structures leaves Seccombe Marshall & Campion must remain, for the time being at least, a conundrum. Seccombe have been broken in the discount market for the Bank of England for 60 years, a role which gave the house an importance out of all proportion to its size.

On one hand, this has generated a fairly steady profits growth. Conversely it has perhaps impeded the kind of spectacular expansion shown by Gerrard or a union discount. How do the atmosphere of the ancient regime fare in the revolution? Mullens, who play a similar role to Seccombe in the gilts market, must be asking themselves a similar question.

To the untrained eye, a merger between the two offers an expedient solution. But this could prove premature. Over at Seccombe, the atmosphere is far from defeatist. The £60,000 rise in profits owes a lot to aggressive gilts trading, and the year end balance sheet should show lots of strength. The house is convinced that it can develop a slot for itself in the changing London market, just as "boutique" broker-dealers appear to have done in New York.

But more surprisingly, Seccombe sound willing to listen to overtures, just like any other discount house. Although special considerations would be attached by the authorities to any deal, the house does not appear to be completely shackled by a traditional relationship. At 340p, unchanged on the day, the shares might have further to go assuming the house can lead an open car to bid talk.

GrandMet

The only blot on what was an otherwise impressive set of interim results from Grand Metropolitan was the disappointing performance in the foods

division. Trading profit slipped from £15.5m to £8.7m which leaves little hope for a recovery in the full year. The 1982/3 results had been adversely affected by the cost of commissioning the Ruyton creamery and the integrated distribution facilities, but the downturn was expected to halt this year. Unless efficiency can be improved in what is a very competitive market there is a danger that foods will switch from being merely an underperforming division to a real drag on the results.

Elsewhere, GrandMet saw improvements across the board and the pretax profit received a boost from a reduced interest charge. There must be some doubt whether this fall will be maintained throughout the year and the full year's charge will be broadly in line with the £111m incurred in 1982/83.

The group is reluctant to become excited about the 29 per cent growth in pretax profits and is still pessimistic about sustaining the performance in the second half. This time last year, GrandMet reported a 52 per cent rise in pretax profits but when the full year turned in only a 34 per cent increase the market was a little disappointed. Two months ago at the annual meeting Mr Stanley Grinstead, chairman, expressed doubts about the company's ability to maintain the excellent start to the year. Nothing seems to have happened which makes him more optimistic, but his caution has not been enough to dissuade some brokers from upgrading their profit forecast for the year.

Part of the reason for this cat-and-mouse attitude to the company's concerted effort to reduce the disparity between the results in the two halves of the year. Profits have traditionally been concentrated in the second half, but a steady reorganization has reduced the variance. Although big increases are coming through in the first half these are unlikely to be so pronounced in the second.

Even allowing for a slower growth in the second half and little recovery in the foods division, pretax profits of

£360m for the full year should be achieved comfortably. After early increases, the share price slipped to end 2p up at 342p.

Sears Holdings

Sears Holdings has unearthed the ultimate in corporate alchemy - making the weather work for its group. When the sun shines, the public flocks to spend - witness the £20m jump in shoe retail profits to £84.4m, and the £12m expansion in Selfridges' and other store operations' profits. And when it rains? In poor weather, betting odds go haywire, and the group cleans up through its William Hill betting chain. Betting profits last year jumped £5m to £11m.

Last year, however, was possibly a never-to-be-forgotten 12 months' trading. As well as climatic extremes, the group benefited from a lucrative constant heavy consumer spending, both in the US and Britain. Hence, car sales and servicing showed a 40 per cent jump in profits; housebuilding generated half the property division's £14m profits; in the US, Butler Shoes contribution rose £7m to £12.7m.

Sears concedes that the going this year is likely to be tougher. A further profits gain is likely, but not a similar scale of growth; the year began sluggishly, although recent weeks have seen a pick-up in consumer spending.

Perhaps shares warrant a sale, as the rise in British and US rates threaten to choke off excess demand. Certainly the rate of outperformance by the shares has been slowing throughout the year.

Long-term holders, however, should be aware that Sears now plans to shift its axis of emphasis solidly to the US. If the company and rating is right, Sears is happy to consider deals of almost any scale, in an attempt to build up the share price still more. Net cash of £160m (18p a share) backs up the expansion plan. So, if the market comes back, long-term holders should treat the shake-out as a buying opportunity. The shares rose 3p to 91p on the day.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Profit-taking in the dollar that developed during the earlier part of the session was halted by higher April industrial production figures in the United States and another weakening of US bond markets.

Dealers reported unsettled trading conditions.

The worsening labour unrest in West Germany failed to upset the Deutschmark to any extent.

The Deutschmark did well against sterling where worries about the miners' strike upset sentiment. The rate closed 1.20 pence higher at 3.8140 (3.8260). The pound's trade weighted index ended at 79.9 compared with 80.1 overnight.

Against the dollar the pound moved with a very narrow band ending 3 points down at 1.33875. The dollar closed lower in Deutschmark terms at 2.7500 (2.7540).

Period rates came off a little more at the short end of the market in response to continuing easy day-to-day money conditions.

Business, however, was on a modest scale and concentrated in the area out to two months.

Longer dates held firm in reflection of the market's underlying nervousness about base rate prospects.

Interbank, overnight money hovered in the region of 8/8 per cent for most of the session, though late trading saw the rate dip to about 4 per cent. The rate finished at about 7 per cent bid.

Local authorities mostly stuck to the very short end.

Dollar rates remained very firm, though trade was slow and there was little reaction to the US industrial production rise of 1.4 per cent in April.

MONEY MARKETS

Authorized Unit Trusts

Bid		Offer		Trust		Bid		Offer		Yield	
Authorized Unit Trusts											
40000 Unit Trust Managers											
1-2	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
3-4	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5-6	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
7-8	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
9-10	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
11-12	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
13-14	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15-16	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
17-18	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
19-20	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
21-22	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
23-24	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
25-26	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
27-28	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
29-30	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
31-32	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
33-34	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
35-36	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
37-38	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
39-40	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
41-42	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
43-44	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
45-46	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
47-48	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
49-50	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
51-52	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
53-54	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
55-56	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
57-58	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
59-60	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
61-62	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
63-64	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
65-66	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
67-68	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
69-70	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
71-72	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
73-74	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
75-76	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
77-78	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
79-80	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
81-82	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
83-84	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
85-86	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
87-88	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
89-90	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
91-92	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
93-94	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
95-96	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
97-98	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
99-100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
101-102	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
103-104	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
105-106	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
107-108	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
109-110	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
111-112	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
113-114	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
115-116	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
117-118	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
119-120	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
121-122	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
123-124	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
125-126	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
127-128	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
129-130	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
131-132	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
133-134	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
135-136	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
137-138	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
139-140	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
141-142	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
143-144	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
145-146	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
147-148	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
149-150	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
151-152	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
153-154	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
155-156	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
157-158	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
159-160	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
161-162	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
163-164	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
165-166	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
167-168	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
169-170	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
171-172	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
173-174	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
175-176	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
177-178	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
179-180	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
181-182	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100						

Why Reagan should change horses on the road to ruin

Grand Metropolitan PLC, 11/12 Hanover Square, London W1A 1DP

Hold-up for the holders

By Richard Stratton

LORD'S: Sussex have scored 32 for one against Middlesex.

Rain and bad light allowed only nine overs and added to the Middlesex problems as Benson and Hedges cap Middlesex, started their efforts to recover from last start in group C. However, having previously lost to Kent, needed both points from this game to maintain their chance of qualifying.

Sussex, in contrast, would be affected far less by the unrelenting weather, which is forecast to continue today. Sussex already have a surprise win against Somerset being theirs.

Captain put Sussex in on a cold, overcast morning. Barclay gave a chance to the wicketkeeper off

Cowans before he was caught at backward short leg off Daniel in the fifth over. The rain began after 40 minutes and lasted until tea. The rain then waited in vain for the light to improve before abandoning play at 6.30pm.

SUSSEX

G D Barlow not out _____
G D Mandre not out _____
J G Smith not out _____
P W G Parker not out _____
Extras (5-7) _____

Total (1 wkts 8 overs)
Sussex 32 (1 wkts 8 overs). C P Philpotts
J A Gould, G S B Rous, D A Pearce, and G S B Water to bowl.

TOP SCORERS 1-18.
MIDDLESEX G D Barlow, W N Black, "M Gammie," C T Hussey, K P Tomlinson, J E Emberton, P G Bowdler, P Williams, A P Hughes, W Daniel and N S Cowans.

Umpires: A Jepson and K E Palmer.

The Boycott rebels claim that the old committees were the cause but the risk is that it is they who themselves have now become the cause. Everyone must hope that Boycott will have a spectacular season, for his own and the county's benefit. Yet that is the assurance to precipitate fresh controversy, in which only close commonsense and Mr Kirk's altruistic ability to support him will carry the possibility of stability rather than more unrest.

also run in the meeting, in the 800 metres for Loughborough against the AAA and Borough Road College.

county's players for outstanding practice at Lord's yesterday performances.

De Silva ruled out

Somachandra de Silva, the Sri Lankan Test match player, will not be available for Shropshire's Minor Counties this season. The country's professional for the last few seasons, he has a shoulder injury and will be out of cricket for 18 months.

Jones and McLeod are in superb College.

at the UK Championships in Cwmbran in 10 days' time, this becomes an important guide to form. Jones and McLeod are in superb

for the three 10,000 metres Olympic places, to be selected from the race at the UK Championships in Cwmbran in 10 days' time, this becomes an important guide to form

at the UK Championships in Cwmbran in 10 days' time, this becomes an important guide to form. Jones and McLeod are in superb

but also run in the meeting, in the 800 metres for Loughborough against the AAA and Borough Road College.

RACING: SWINBURN WINS MUSIDORA STAKES AT YORK DESPITE SADDLE SLIPPING AT START

Telios is ready to brush Claude Monet aside

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Claude Monet, the third favourite for the Derby, will be under the microscope at York today when the unbeaten runner, who has won the Mecca-Dante Stakes, Henry Cecil, his trainer, has a soft spot for this particular classic trial, having won it first with Approval and then again with 11phard's Wish. Hello Gorgeous and Simply Great.

Time alone will tell whether Claude Monet is capable following in their footsteps. What is clear in my mind is that he is not a 7-4 shot to beat a field that includes Telios, Kirmann, Long Pond, High Debate, Head For Heights and Commanche Run besides Raami and Pigwidgeon, the two who finished directly behind him in the Hesthorns Stakes at Newmarket at the beginning of this month.

So my inclination is to take a chance with Telios in this instance. But, Hobbs, his trainer, is not prone to making wild statements, so when such a conservative and experienced man says that Telios might easily beat the best in the land over middle distances - as he did soon after Telios had finished third to Lear Fan and Rainbow Quest in the Craven Stakes - it is high time to sit up and take notice.

Being a half brother to the Irish Derby winner, Thyraeos, as well as those other good equine athletes Tachypous, Tromos and Tolmi, by Mill Reef, Telios certainly has an abundance of goodness in his pedigree. I will not be remotely surprised if he lives up to it.

The same observation obviously applies to Claude Monet, who is by Affirmed, the winner of the American Triple Crown, and out of a mare who won the French 1,000 Guineas and Oaks. However, after looking bound to win with ease at Newmarket, there was something rather disturbing about the way that Claude Monet did eventually succeed.

Whether it was Steve Cauter taking things too easily, or whether it was Claude Monet weakening up the final hill, either because of lack of fitness, lack of stamina, or both, I know not. What I do know, is that Bill O'Gorman is not remotely afraid of taking him on again with Raami on 6lb better terms, and that the connections of Pigwidgeon have not been frightened away either.

Human nature being what it is, the continuing feud between Claude Monet's owner, Daniel Wildenstein, and Lester Pigott is likely to goad the latter into trying to move heaven and earth in his attempt to win today's big prize at Kirmann, the two who finished directly behind him in the Hesthorns Stakes at Newmarket at the beginning of this month.

Kirmann showed traces of inexperience before he eventually won the White Rose Stakes at Ascot last month. Yesterday Fulke Johnson Houghton, his trainer, told me that while Kirmann had learnt a lot from that race he might still turn out to be a little green when the crunch comes. Nevertheless, he should still manage to confirm his Ascot form with Tovee Botta.

No horse will get the trip better today than High Debate, who won over a mile and a quarter as a two-year-old and a Trojan Fan to half a length at Newmarket in April. Furthermore, as this giant of a horse was never entered for the Derby because it was felt that Epsom would be unlikely to suit him, today's race almost amounts to a classic in itself.

Head For Heights and Elegant Air has changed stables as a result of a change in ownership since last autumn. He is not one to be trifled with, even though training him on the firm ground this spring cannot have been easy.

Elegant Air comes from a stable which has still to find its

natural rhythm. It must be said that his run behind Long Pond in the Blue Riband Trial at Epsom was disappointing, although he can only improve.

George Robinson, our Newmarket Correspondent, ventures the opinion that Commanche Run could turn out to be Luca Cumani's best three-year-old colt. His two-year-old form has already been upheld at European level by Bob Back's good performance in last Sunday's Italian Derby.

No matter how Claude Monet fares in the big race, his owner and breeder could still have something to smile about after the Glasgow Stakes because the word from Newmarket is that Theriste has shown sufficient on the health there to suggest that he may be up to beating the Craven Stakes fourth, Cherry Hill, and the easy Kempton winner, Assail, with these allowances.

Paul Cole, whose Lambourn stable has been in such effective form this spring, is hopeful that Joyful Dancer, with Brian Rouse aboard, will win the Hambleton Stakes and thus compensate him and his followers for that narrow defeat in the Jubilee Stakes at Kempton 10 days ago. Cole told me yesterday that Joyful Dancer is very well and that he thinks the course at York will suit him.

If he is unsuccessful, compensation should still be in the pipeline by way of a victory in the Madeira Handicap at Brighton with Serheed, who has won the Matras Stakes with Enchanted Castle, who has already won there this season.

Since the weights were published, Serheed has won twice, initially at Kempton by four lengths and then again at Lingfield Park by the same distance. In the circumstances it will be surprised if a 4lb penalty stops my nap from gaining a third successive win.

Another likely lass for Stoute

By Michael Seely

Despite a dangerously slipping saddle, the partnership of Walter Swinburn and Optimistic Lass survived intact to gallop to a convincing victory in the Musidora Stakes at York yesterday. "That was an absolute miracle," the 22-year-old jockey said. "I was more helped than hindered. I'd given up all hope of winning when suddenly we were there in front."

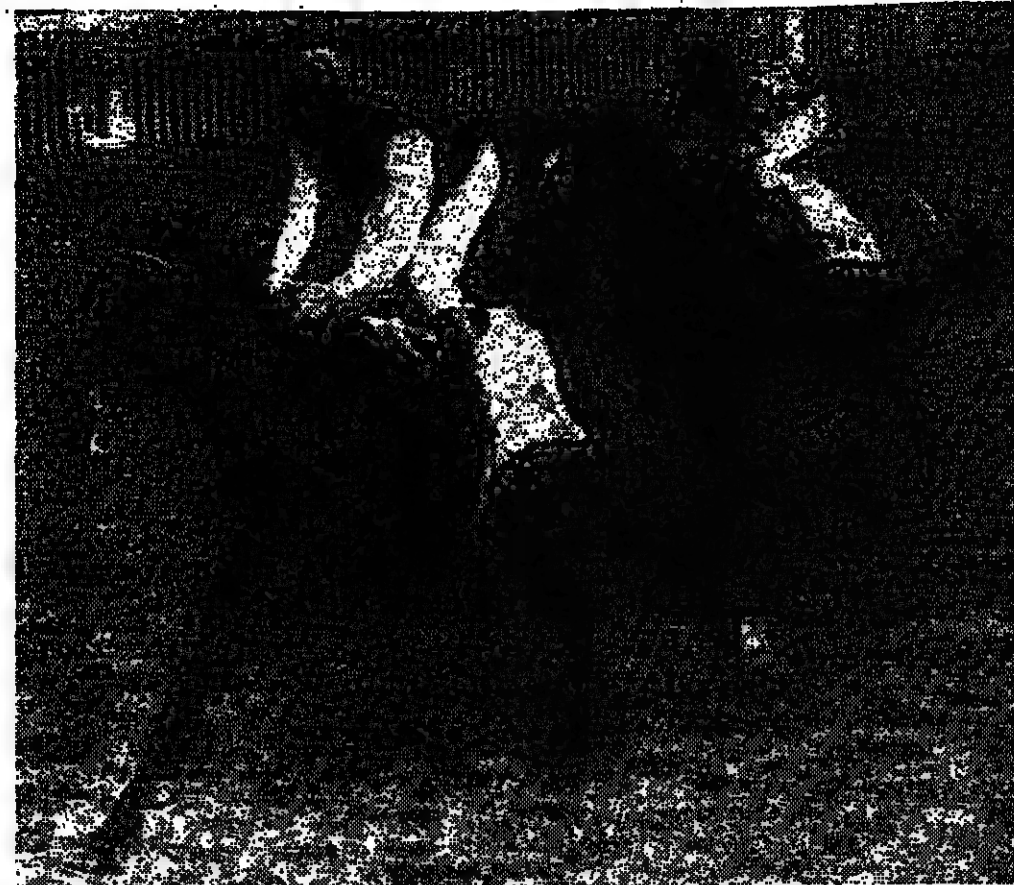
Swinburn thought that the accident probably occurred leaving the starting stalls. "It probably happened as we jumped off. She is a rather narrow-fronted filly and the saddle was probably shaken loose immediately. First, it slipped backwards. Then each time I tried to correct it by pushing down with one leg, the saddle went the other way. We hit the front too soon and she was idling in the lead."

Optimistic Lass took up the running over two furlongs home and stayed on strongly to beat Poquito Queen by one and a half lengths, with Sandy Island, the 5-4 favourite, the same distance away third. "We had to think of the Poquito Queen as a problem," said Swinburn. "I was a bit disappointed," Henry Cecil said. "Sandy Island will probably now only run at Epsom if the ground is soft."

Both Dick Hern and Willie Carson thought that Sadnethe, who finished fourth, failed to stay the distance. Michael Stoute, on the other hand, builds an immensely strong hand as the Newmarket trainer attempts to repeat his 1978 triumph with Fair Salina in the Oaks. "We'll have to play it nice today," he said. "I think it is my only chance to run. I'd like to see Optimistic Lass as a runner. Although there are slight doubts on her damside, she's got a marvellous temperament and I'm encouraged to think that she'll get mile and a half at Epsom."

"But Shaikh Mohammed also owns Kanza as well," Stoute added. "We'll better wait until we run Lady against the favourite in the Sir Charles Close Memorial Stakes at Newbury on Friday. Optimistic Lass is also entered in the furlong and a half shorter French Oaks as well."

Stoute has a fourth possible candidate for our filly's premier



Optimistic Lass races home ahead of Poquito Queen in yesterday's Musidora Stakes

classic in Rappa Tap Tap, who runs at Goodwood next week. Kanza remains favourite for the Oaks and Optimistic Lass is quoted at odds of between 6-1 and 8-1.

Willie Carson was the star of an action-packed afternoon on the Knavesmire. The reigning champion jockey landed a 130-1 gamble on Chapteaux Vale, Pampas and Barry Sheepe. Chapteaux Vale gave Hern his first two-year-old winner of the season from his first runner of that age group in the Zealand Stakes.

Pampas, the middle leg of Carson's three winners, was a convincing winner of the David Dixon Trophy. "That was my first ever runner at York," the Yorkshire Irish trainer said. "Pampas was a cheap buy for only £2,000 at the two-year-old out-of-training sales at Goffs. We'll run her in the Ballyogan Stakes at Leopardstown and then bring her over to Royal Ascot for the Wokingham Stakes."

Par Eddery also continues to ride in invincible form and recorded his twenty-sixth victory of the season when producing Clewley With Pride, a well-timed run to outclass her rivals in the BBA Middleton Stakes.

No Chief Singer

Chief Singer, runner-up to El Gran Senor in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket was a surprise omission from the 15 four-day declarations for the Airline/Comoro Irish 2,000 Guineas at The Curragh on Saturday.

Vincent O'Brien and his son, are responsible for a third of the declarations. Vincent has left in Sadler's Wells, winner of the Leopardstown Derby last time out, Wood Luck and Capture Him.

The 15 declared runners are: Capture Him, Congress Palace, Fiery Cell, Foscarni, Hegemony, Lak Lusure, Masabell, Mayrasa, Frodoia, Roussell, Sadler's Wells, Seafaring, Scroston, Shrubub, Tomlinson.

Rainbow Quest out

Rainbow Quest, owned by Khaled Abdullah, will not run in the Derby provided all remains well with Alphonse, Mr Abdullah's principal Epsom hope. Jeremy Tree, Rainbow Quest's trainer, said yesterday: Rainbow Quest's next likely race will be either the French Derby or the Prix Jean Prat. Both are run at Chantilly on June 3.

Rainbow Quest, who finished only fourth, nine-and-a-half-lengths behind El Gran Senor, in the 2,000 Guineas, was as short as 8-1 for the Derby after finishing a close second to Lear Fan in the Craven Stakes on his reappearance. But he drifted out to 25-1 shortly after the Guineas and yesterday morning was not included in most lists, as bookmakers anticipated that he would not run.

Alphonse is best-priced 9-2 to give Mr Abdullah his first Derby success.

A princess helps trials with redesign

By Jenny MacArthur

Princess Anne, the president of the Windsor Horse Trials, has played a major role in the planning of the new cross-country course for this year's trials, sponsored by the T1 Group, which take place in Windsor Great Park from May 25 to 27.

The building of 21 new fences, at a cost of about £13,000, was made possible by the insurance money collected after the cancellation of last year's event because of rain. Princess Anne, together with Bill Thomson, the Burghley course designer, John Smeere and Captain Dick Seaman, the cross-country director, immediately began to plan a cross-country course on the new site of the Prince of Wales riding school. The new site, which is a former military camp, means that each fence will remain jumpable in dry or wet conditions, and also each fence can now be reached by an ambulance in case of an accident. Princess Anne said yesterday that Windsor had now assumed its rightful place as a forerunner to Badminton and Burghley, the two premier three-day events.

Princess Anne will not be competing at Windsor because Mission Lake, her only horse of the right standard, has still not recovered from injury. Riders competing include Captain Mark Phillips on Fieldman, Richard Walker on Latin V and Globe-trotter, and Lucinda Green with Encounter.

Glazzard in title defence

By a Special Correspondent

There are 90 more entries in the house and pony classes at the two Shropshire and West Midlands Shows, which opens today at Shrewsbury, than last year's.

Geoff Glazzard, winner of last year's leading title, Veronique Whitaker and the current junior European champion, Ian Morgan, all dual winners at last year's Royal Windsor Show, head the show jumping entry.

Also competing are Jean Germain, who won the major competition at the recent Newmarket and Nottinghamshire Show, Graham Fletcher, Robert Smith and Australian Jeff McVean.

YORK

[Television (C4): 2.35, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10]

GOING: good to firm.

Draw no advantage.

Total: double 3.10 and 4.10. Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.10.

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4-5 September, 4 Ho M Chirby, 8 Barnes Star, 10 Barnes Star, 12 Aristocrat Velvet, 16 Ho M Chirby, 18 Barnes Star, 20 Barnes Star, 22 Aristocrat Velvet, 24 Ho M Chirby, 26 Barnes Star, 28 Barnes Star, 30 Aristocrat Velvet.

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We have a vacancy for an experienced Receptionist/Telephonist to join our busy Office Services team working in a professional although informal environment.

The job involves a wide range of duties including the provision of a reception/telephone service, typing of correspondence/telexes, and booking of temporary staff, conference rooms etc.

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FREE ART - £7,000

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149.252 acres in all
For Sale with Vacant Possession

Auction 19th June 1984



Jones Lang Wootton

Chartered Surveyors
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London W1Y 6AS

01-493 6040

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Haverfordwest 6 miles
Carmarthen 22 miles
Close to A40(T)

Attractive farmhouse; excellent and
extensive livestock buildings; fertile
land running down to The Haven.

320.461 acres in all
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Auction 19th June 1984

Evans Roach & Co.

Chartered Surveyors, 5 Quay Street,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

ROSEHILL FARM

DYFED
Haverfordwest 3 miles
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BBC 1

- 6.00** **Confax AM.**
- 6.30** **Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selma Scott.** News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Pam Tibbett's television choice at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.15; Mike Smith with the new Top Ten between 7.55 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.25; Mother to Be time between 8.30 and 9.00.
- 6.00** **Claire Rayner's Capebook.** The problem page lady talks to three people who have suffered from both Anorexia and Bulimia (v). **6.00** **Confax.** 10.30 **Play School.** presented by Brian Jameson (v). 10.35 **Gharber.** Magazine programme for Asian women. The programme includes a discussion about diabetes and new findings at 11.30 **Confax.**
- 12.30** **News After Noon.** 12.57 **Regional news.** London and SE only; Financial Review programme followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 **Pebble Mill.** One includes a look at the future of space exploration and a song from Marie Wilson. 1.45 **Pigeon Street.** A See-Saw programme for the very young (v).
- 2.00** **The Great Llama.** The third and final part of Robert Wall's series about the llama. 2.30 **Film: Dangerous Mission (1954)** starring Victor Mature. Thriller about a manhunt in Montana's Glacier National Park. Directed by Louis King. 3.40 **Cartoon.** Moby's The Little Mole. 3.53 **Regional news (not London).**
- 3.55** **Play School.** presented by Liz Watts. 4.20 **The Perils of Penelope Pitstop.** Cartoon series (v). **4.40** **Take Two.** Junior version of *Let's Get Ready to Rave* presented by Josephine Buchanan. **5.00** **Play School.** and **5.15** **Break Point.** are the programmes under the microscope. 5.15 **John Craven's Newsweek.** 5.15 **Silva.** Part one of a series about the life of a young circus boy one hundred years ago.
- 5.40** **Sixty Minutes.**
- 6.40** **Cartoon.** Tom and Jerry in Old Rookin' Chak Tom.
- 6.50** **Terry and June.** A video recorder is Terry's new toy and he soon learns never to volunteer to record a programme for someone else. **7.00** **Confax.** 7.15 **Confax.** 7.30 **Confax.** 7.45 **Confax.** 7.55 **Confax.** 8.00 **Confax.** 8.15 **Confax.** 8.30 **Confax.** 8.45 **Confax.** 8.55 **Confax.** 9.00 **Confax.** 9.15 **Confax.** 9.30 **Confax.** 9.45 **Confax.** 9.55 **Confax.** 10.00 **Confax.** 10.15 **Confax.** 10.30 **Confax.** 10.45 **Confax.** 10.55 **Confax.** 11.00 **Confax.** 11.15 **Confax.** 11.30 **Confax.** 11.45 **Confax.** 11.55 **Confax.** 12.00 **Confax.** 12.15 **Confax.** 12.30 **Confax.** 12.45 **Confax.** 12.55 **Confax.** 1.00 **Confax.** 1.15 **Confax.** 1.30 **Confax.** 1.45 **Confax.** 1.55 **Confax.** 2.00 **Confax.** 2.15 **Confax.** 2.30 **Confax.** 2.45 **Confax.** 2.55 **Confax.** 3.00 **Confax.** 3.15 **Confax.** 3.30 **Confax.** 3.45 **Confax.** 3.55 **Confax.** 4.00 **Confax.** 4.15 **Confax.** 4.30 **Confax.** 4.45 **Confax.** 4.55 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Men on riot charges after pit rally

Continued from page 1

vehicles - tactics "intended to terrorise respectable working people in their own villages and communities. We have gone a long way down a very sad road."

The evidence had proved that large numbers did produce disorder. For two or three weeks the police had anticipated what would happen in Nottinghamshire's mining villages and the police had been patrolling them and covering them at night. Several pits had stopped working at night because miners were frightened of leaving their wives and families at home.

Mr McLachlan also described what he called "sleeping intimidation", when working miners and their families were intimidated every time there was a large picket at a colliery.

© The National Union of Mineworkers has warned all its full-time and part-time officials that they face disciplinary charges if they encourage men to cross picket lines in defiance of conference policy (Our Labour Editor writes).

The warning is contained in a letter sent out by Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the union. It involves several hundred officials ranging from area presidents down to branch secretary and delegate.

It tells them that under union rules they must carry out the policy of the Sheffield delegate conference which sent out a national call for industrial action and an instruction not to cross picket lines set up to spread the "rolling strike", now in its tenth week.

Officials are advised that proceedings under disciplinary rules will follow if they encourage pickets to work normally in defiance of the strike call, which could include a ban on holding any NUM office. But the warning is being openly defied in moderate areas, particularly in Nottinghamshire where some colliery delegates are planning to turn the tables by suing their area leaders.

Parliament, page 4

Villages of hate, page 9

Papal relic

Lisbon, (AFP). - The Pope has donated the bull which he and nearly killed him in the assassination attempt in Rome three years ago to the famous shrine at Fatima in Western Portugal.



Happy families: Reunions at the Royal Berkshire Hotel in Sunningdale for Mr and Mrs Robert Jones (left), Julian, aged 9, and Alan, aged 7; and Mr and Mrs Douglas Samuel of Penre, Wales, and two-year-old Christopher.

British hostages home with jobs in danger

By Richard Dowden

The 16 British hostages held in Angola for 11 weeks by Unita rebels arrived in London yesterday morning clearly delighted to be back but facing an uncertain employment future.

Last Friday they all signed a document at the captor's insistence which stated that they would not return to Angola while the civil war continued. They said they had done so willingly, without second thoughts. Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, personally warned the hostages last week that he would not guarantee their safety if they returned.

For eight of them who work for Mining and Technical Services (Mats) this poses a problem since the company operates only in Angola. A company spokesman said yesterday that they were on full pay at present, but the situation was under review.

Another two hostages work for Diamang, the Angolan state diamond company and will now have to seek other employment.

The Britons, and the Portuguese wife of one of them, looked fit and tanned after their adventure in the bush, but they were clearly delighted to be home. However there were no emotional scenes at Heathrow at 7 am yesterday. After a brief press conference they were driven to the Royal Berkshire Hotel at Sunningdale to meet their families privately.

The Mats spokesman said yesterday that the future of the whole diamond mining operation in north-east Angola depended upon the Lusitania Government's ability to give protection to the expatriate miners. It is understood that another attack by Dr Savimbi's guerrillas would result in the company withdrawing.

"There is no question of mining taking place unless they take all reasonable steps to protect the expatriate company workers," the spokesman said. He denied that the company, which was set up by De Beers, the South African diamond multinational, had had any contact with Unita over the hostages.

A De Beers representative, Mr Peter Gallagos, is flying to

Luanda next week to have further talks with the Angolan Government about the security of the company's personnel.

The hostages gave direct and good-humoured accounts of what had happened to them. They said there was no warning whatever when the guerrillas attacked on the morning of February 23.

Mr Robert Jones, the mine manager from Shrewsbury, said there were about 100 diamond security forces in the area and a few Angolan soldiers. "They did the sensible thing and took to their heels. There was almost no returning miners," he said. "Unita had been in the town for some time spying out the land. They knew where we all were."

"The Unita forces were very well disciplined and trained and were highly motivated. They received no pay. They all came from the south; they did not appear to have recruited anyone locally."

Mr Ian Fenton, an engineer from Bournemouth, said the worst moments were when they were first attacked by rifle and mortar fire.

"For half an hour we just didn't know what was happening," Mr Fenton said. "The other half was the lorry journey of three days and three nights along bumpy roads."

For him, as a former RAF officer, it was like a return to service life. He said he had great admiration for the Filipinos who were captured at the same time. One had to be carried by stretcher the 350 miles before they were put in lorries.

Mr Graham Popplewell said that he and his Portuguese wife, Vera, whom he married a year ago, had lost everything in Angola. They would have to find a home and everything for it.

Sir John Leahy, the Foreign Office representative who entered Angola to meet Dr Savimbi as a price for the hostages' release, said they had earned his personal admiration. "They have been through a terrible ordeal, and they have come through with their heads high and their morale splendid. They are also in surprisingly good physical shape and have stuck together in splendid style."

All the hostages were full of praise for their captors. Mr Fenton said they were helpful and friendly and did what they could for their captives. "Every day the medical attendant inspected us during the march."

Another hostage said they were superior to the Government troops in discipline and motivation.

Mr Popplewell said: "We were both pawns and jokers in the pack. We were captives, but they had to look after us."

Mr Budd Sanders, Mr Ken Moffat and Mr Alfred Tasker, three employees of Defence Systems International, said they had no special instructions to follow when they were captured, though Mr Sanders said their military backgrounds helped when they were trekking through the bush.

Defence Systems recruits largely from the SAS and conducts "perimeter security" operations mainly around oil installations in the Middle East. In Angola the three hostages have been officially employed to help to prevent diamond smuggling.

Letter from Dunoon

The hunter-killers lose their menace

Nuclear defence is an old industry on the Clyde. For 22 years the grey whalebacks of nuclear submarines have slipped in and out of the shelter of Holy Loch on their invisible missions. Familiarity has robbed the vessels of some of their early menace as war machines that can cruise beneath the polar ice and devastate continents with nuclear missiles.

The folk of Sandbank are apt to point casually to the flock of dark hulls offshore and explain the difference between the Possidon-armed submarines and the hunter-killers.

Somehow, they say, the destructive potential of the vessels has become separated from the familiar, sea-stained shapes that come and go from their mother ship, the USS Hunley and its near by floating dock.

But like the arms race, the nuclear defences on the Clyde are expanding against growing outside resistance.

Today the Government will unveil plans for the Trident nuclear submarine base further upstream at Faslane, which Labour-controlled Dumfries and Galloway Council has declared a nuclear-free zone.

Political independents in Dunoon and Sandbank, though, see that manoeuvre as relevant as Clapham declaring itself a no-go area for trains.

In Holy Loch, the expansion has been less spectacular. Sandbank and neighbouring Dunoon have no wish to see the Americans ordered out, in spite of stories that servicemen at the Holy Loch base have been taking drugs, including LSD.

Locals, however, might have thought that Mr Ken McNamara, a Labour defence spokesman, was understating their feelings when he said there was concern about what people working at a nuclear base might do when high on drugs.

Mr Peter Collier, a fourth generation Sandbanker and chairman of the community council, leads the strongest criticism of the American presence.

He said that all the early assurances about the base and its size had been flouted. Americans outnumbered locals three-to-one and the Ministry of Defence was buying up more and more land and buildings for their use.

The council is sceptical about any assurances from the military and accused the Americans of violating their own safety regulations.

"As far as we understand it, there are not supposed to be more than two submarines at the base at any one time and no missiles are supposed to be loaded or removed within miles of the nearest habitation."

But recently there were six submarines in the loch less than a mile from Sandbank village, he said.

Rumours abound about an American submarine returning with part of its hull radioactive, of nuclear missiles being dropped while being lowered onto submarines.

It did not drop, the navy told the council, it descended faster than normal.

Apart from the vessels in the loch, the American presence was marked yesterday evening by a formidable number of crewed athletic men jogging in the country lanes around Sandbank. Those that were not jogging appeared to be travelling by taxi - the American cab habit has generated an impressive fleet of taxis in the Dunoon district.

On one of the housing estates where some of the 2,000 dependants of the 2,000 American servicemen live, a woman putting a final shine to a gas guzzler said that most Americans were happy to be living in Scotland.

She thought relationships with the locals were excellent.

Mr John Thomson, former provost of Dunoon and a local councillor for 30 years, preferred the positive benefits.

One calculation is that the Americans spend nearly £20m a year in shops, rates, rent, local contracts and wages at the base as a whole.

Did Dunoon feel to be a vulnerable target because of the American base?

Not so, Mr Thomson said. He recalled the day of the Cuba crisis when the town woke up and discovered that every sign of the American base had disappeared overnight.

There would have been nothing remotely American for the Russians to hit apart from perhaps the public house that had changed its name to the Paul Jones.

Persuading the Russians of that, of course, might have been difficult.

Ronald Faux

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, in Cambridge, opens the Information Technology Centre 10.30, also opens the Grafton Shopping Centre, 11.20, visits Emmanuel College, 12.15, and Jesus College, 3.30.

Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, visits the Broadlands Group at Broadlands Riding School, Medstead, Hants, 2, and later, as

President of the British Olympic Association, attends a reception given by the British Nordic Ski Team at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, Hants, 6.30.

Princess Margaret, as President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends the annual council meeting, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 11.05.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel in Chief the Royal Army Education Corps, visits units in West Germany, departs Northolt Airfield, 9.30.

The Duchess of Kent, Controller Army Corps, visits West Germany, departs Northolt airfield, 9.30.

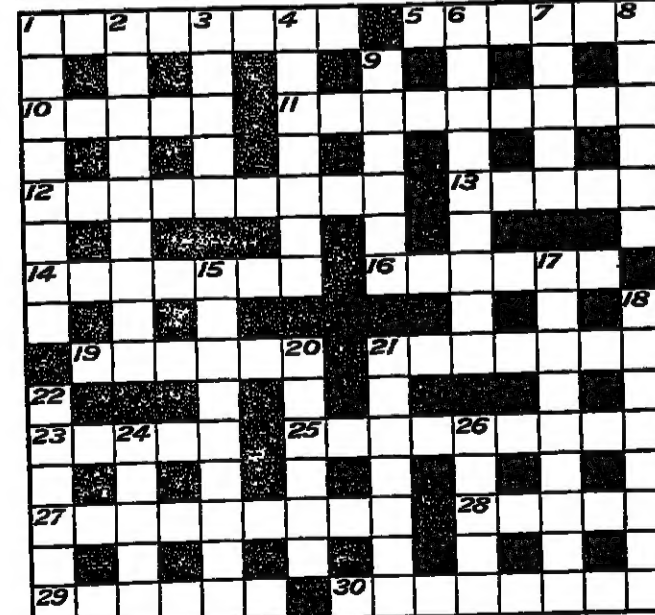
The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, attends the European Poultry Fair at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 11.30; and later, as President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is guest of honour at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at the Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7, 6.30.

Prince Michael of Kent, as President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, opens IMI conference at the Pania Hotel, Heathrow, Middx, 10.30, and later attends Grand Day at the Inner Temple, EC4, at 7.30.

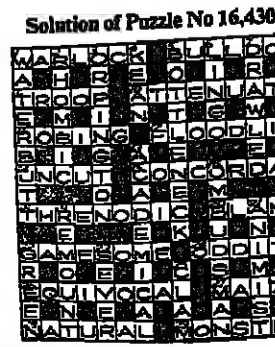
Princess Michael of Kent attends GP & J Baker Centenary Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7, 6.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,431

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 21 per cent of the competitors at this year's Glasgow regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pinched hired article of clothing (8).
 - 2 National spirit (6).
 - 3 He's liable to charge cash (5).
 - 4 Fungus withstood a lot, somehow (9).
 - 5 Crisis when Eastern quarter conceals information (9).
 - 6 One must have leave to look inside the White House (5).
 - 7 Parvenu puts faked pictures on show (7).
 - 8 Slight difference is not apparent in text (6).
 - 9 Make ball go spinning around the world (6).
 - 10 Shakespearean knight, we hear, can be glorious (7).
 - 11 One who has to talk nonsense (5).
 - 12 Figure included in rent bill (9).
 - 13 Details off for fatigue (9).
 - 14 Brook's said to be a poet (5).
 - 15 Walk unsteadily in summer (6).
 - 16 Welsh engineers first to make bearing (8).
- DOWN**
- 1 9-0 to us - splendid! (8).
 - 2 19 values in disarray (9).
 - 3 Strip right away from the crowd (5).
 - 4 Formerly over-coloured, but not burning now (7).
 - 5 Carpet once laid between players and spectators (9).
 - 6 Supernatural Scandinavian fish (5).
 - 7 Make saint Henry sound like an ox (6).
 - 8 Caught somebody, having dropped the last in the gully (6).
 - 9 Colour that's fashionable for interior decoration of French hostility (9).
 - 10 Dry up about celebration - first find a place to eat... (9).
 - 11 ...being hungry, and keen on several eggs (5-3).
 - 12 Stir jam with more vigour (4-2).
 - 13 Bar for high fliers (7).
 - 14 Despite having money, keep quiet about it (6).
 - 15 Perhaps it's under rocket attack (5).
 - 16 Liquor - doctor interjected "Take it slowly" (5).



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

New exhibitions

Photograph by Fraser Ashford, the Ginnel Gallery, Heathrow, Middlesex, to Fri 9 to 5.30, Thur 9 to 8, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jun 8).

Concert by August Serenade, All Saints' Church, Hale Barns, Altrincham, 8.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.

Newbury Spring Festival: Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, St Nicholas Parish Church, Newbury, Berkshire, 8.

Organ recital by Philip Moore, Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire, 7.30.

Recital by Carlos Bonell & Mara, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 8.

Recital by Joy Paritz (soprano), Tim Jones (baritone) and Robin Hales (piano), Holbourne of Menstrie Museum, Bath, 7.45.

Concert by the pupils of Strathallan School, St John's Kirk of Perth, Perth, 12.30.

Recital by Ariel (Virginia Rushton) (soprano), Colin Lawson (clarinet), Marian Raper (piano), Breton Hall College, nr Wakefield, 7.30.

Chelmsford Cathedral Music for harp and tenor recital by Orian and Tomoe Ellis, 8.

Talks and lectures

Alberto Giacometti by David Sylvester, Lecture Theatre 1, University of East Anglia, Norwich, 7.30.

The Ladies' Handicap by Prue Leith, Renold Building, the university of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, 2.15.

General

30th Buxton Antiques Fair, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire, 12 to 9 daily (until 19th May).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Police and Criminal Justice Bill, third reading. Motion for spring adjournment.

Lords (2.30): Debate on energy strategy. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Immunity, and on the probation service.

Anniversaries

John Self Cotman, watercolourist was born at Norwich, 1782. Deaths: Felicia Hemans, poet, Dublin, 1835; Mily Balakirev, composer (new style May 29), St Petersburg (Leningrad), 1910;

Hosepipe ban

A ban on the use of hosepipes is to be extended in South-west England. Already 260,000 people in Devon and Cornwall have been affected after a 14-week dry spell, and the South-west Water Authority has announced that a further 93,000 will be subject to the ban from Saturday.

Licence swap

Driving licences of nine countries can be exchanged for their British equivalent by new arrivals in Britain from June 1 under a new Lynds Chalker, the Minister of State for Transport, has stated in a Commons written reply, that in these countries, Australia, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Hongkong, European Community driving licences are already exchangeable.

The pound

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.61	1.53	
Austria Sch	28.10	26.50	
Belgium Fr	81.50	77.50	
Canada \$	1.84	1.77	
Denmark Kr	8.26	7.96	
France Fr	12.17	11.57	
Germany DM	3.93	3.75	
Greece Dr	157.00	147.00	
Hongkong \$	11.23	10.63	
Ireland £	1.29	1.23	
Italy Lira	242.00	232.00	
Japan Yen	334.00	318.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.46	4.24	
Norway Kr	11.29	10.74	
Portugal Esc	198.00	188.00	
South Africa Rd	2.21	2.05	
Spain Ptas	217.25	206.25	
Sweden Kr	11.74	11.14	
Switzerland Fr	3.28	3.11	
USA \$	1.43	1.38	
Yugoslavia Dnr	205.00	185.00	

Retail Price Index: 345.1.
London: The FT index closed up 4 at 878.

Roads

London and South-east: A308: Reduced width in Staines Road East, Sunbury, eastwards from Batavia Road to Spelthorne boundary. A4: New right turn at North End Road, West Kensington, and junction 14 and contraflow on northbound carriageway between junctions 12 and 13; southbound entry slip road closed at junction 13. North: A534: Traffic lights and contraflow at Crewe Road, Haslingden, east of Crewe. A61: Traffic lights S of Dronfield. A68: Traffic lights on Winton to Fir Tree Road. South: A78: Traffic control from S of Skelmorlie to Saltcoats.

Information supplied by AA.

The papers

The Herald, Zimbabwe's biggest circulating daily, said of the British Government's negotiations with the rebel Angolan movement Unita, leading to last week's release of 16 British hostages: "Kidnapping unarmed civilians, mostly aid workers, is about the best thing rebel movements in Africa can do."

He added: "Units Savimbi of Unita has refused to let them go until the British Government negotiated directly with him. The rebel movements in Ethiopia are notorious for kidnapping foreign aid workers. So are MNR bandits in the Mozambican bush. Even Zimbabwe has had its fair share of kidnappings. A number of people, including six foreign tourists, are still missing after being kidnapped by bandits operating in Marabouland."

negotiating with Savimbi in Angola, the British have given the rebels the diplomatic boost they wanted. It is unlikely Savimbi would have harmed the hostages had the British refused to negotiate, by the Foreign Office is arguing over this."

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F); min 9 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 2.6 in to 6 pm, 0.8 in. Wind: SE to E, 10 to 15 mph, gusts to 20 mph. Fog: 1.0 to 1.5 miles, falling, 1.000 to 1.5 miles.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Manchester, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Cape Town, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Belfast, 0.8 in; highest sunshine: Newcastle, 1.0 in; lowest: 11 in.

Weather forecast

A slack area of low pressure over the near Continent will bring showers or longer periods of rain to much of the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, Channel Islands, Mainly cloudy, rain later; wind NE light to moderate; max temp 13C to 15C (55-59F).
Wales, NW England, S. N. Wales: Mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind NE light to NE light; max temp 13C to 15C (55-59F).
Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, NW, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind N light; max temp 12C to 14C (54-57F).
Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Sunny, intervals scattered showers; wind mainly N light; max temp 11C to 13C (52-55F).
Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Showers with showers or longer periods of rain; near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SE or N light or moderate, sea smooth or slight. English Channel (SE) Wind NW light or moderate, sea smooth or slight. Irish Sea Wind NW light or moderate, sea smooth or slight. Irish Sea Wind NW light or moderate, sea smooth or slight.

Sun rises: 5:07 am Sun sets: 8:48 pm
Moon rises: 10:48 pm
Last Quarter: May 22

Lighting-up time

London 9.18 pm to 4.21 am
Edinburgh 8.51 pm to 4.28 am
Glasgow 8.51 pm to 4.28 am
Perth 8.34 pm to 3.53 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, F
Rain: 1, rain; 0, sun.

	C	F	Rain	Sun
Belfast	10.50	50.90	0.9	0.9
Birmingham	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Bristol	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Edinburgh	11.50	52.70	0.1	0.1
Glasgow	11.50	52.70	0.1	0.1
London	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Manchester	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Newcastle	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Nottingham	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Sheffield	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Southampton	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Stoke	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Swansea	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Torquay	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Wolverhampton	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1
Wrexham	15.50	60.10	0.1	0.1

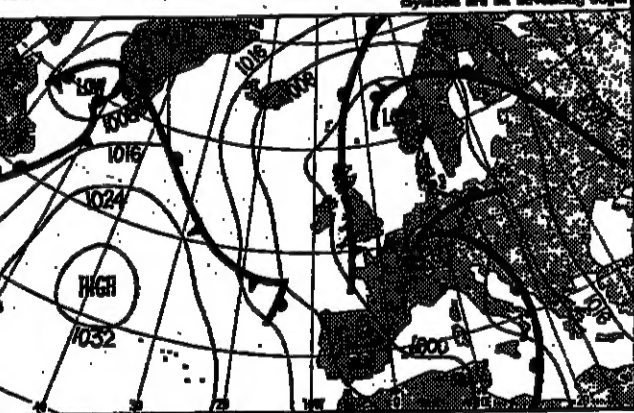
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F); min 9 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 2.6 in to 6 pm, 0.8 in. Wind: SE to E, 10 to 15 mph, gusts to 20 mph. Fog: 1.0 to 1.5 miles, falling, 1.000 to 1.5 miles.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Manchester, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Cape Town, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Belfast, 0.8 in; highest sunshine: Newcastle, 1.0 in; lowest: 11 in.

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NOON TODAY